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1977 ANNUAL # 18

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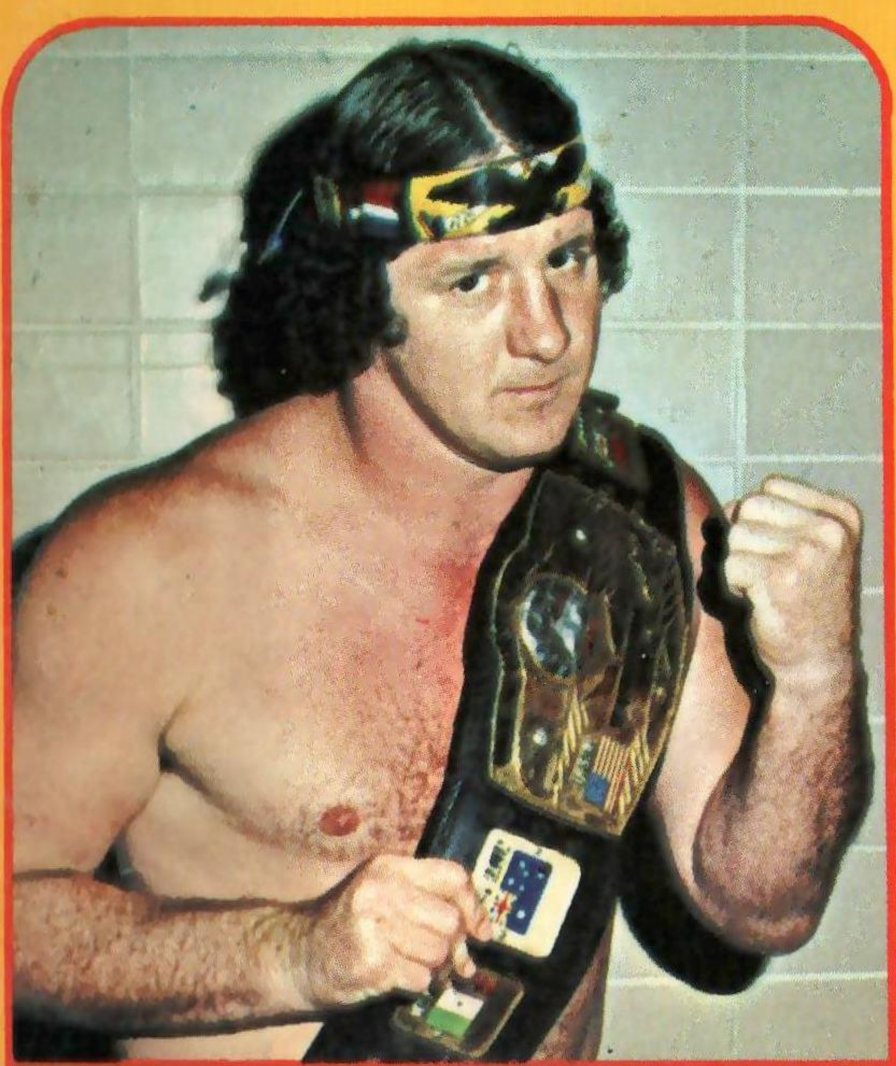

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
Terry Funk

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR
The Executioners

VILLAIN OF THE YEAR
Stan Hansen

MATCH OF THE YEAR
Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
Wahoo McDaniel

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FIGHTING STICKS!

Protect Yourself and your loved ones! STOP ANY ATTACKER with frightening, devastating Nunchaku Sticks Swings Strikes Catches Pinches Choking and other wipe-out techniques all yours to learn in no time at all The application of the Nunchaku to be effective requires a mere flick of the wrist quickly, a firm grip and a sense of determination You will be able to strike an opponent and whip out the chaku (one stick) quickly and effortlessly before your attacker can offer any defense The greatest advantage of the Nunchakus over any other form of self-defense like Karate or Kung Fu is that this weapon is an extention of your hands and legs With one swing the Nunchaku will double in size therefore shortening the distance between you and your opponent Imagine being able to strike crush jab or thrust at your enemy without having to fear his mightiest kick or punch! Your attacker will not be prepared and will not be warned of the unusually long striking range of your Nunchakus Also the sticks by themselves look relatively harmless This being the case you have the great advantage of surprise which will allow you to handle any threatening situation that may occur

I'll Make YOU AN EXPERT IN NUNCHAKU-Karate's DEADLIEST FIGHTING STICKS...AN ORIENTAL ART OF KOBUJITSU-WEAPONS FIGHTING THAT IS APPLIED without directly using your limbs or body.

This Oriental Art of Kobujitsu—weapon fighting that is applied with minimum use of your limbs or body—enables YOU to disable an attacker from several feet away BEFORE he can bat an eyelash! Fast as lightening! The Okinawan method of offensive defense, 470 years old, has been preserved within the ancient Tokugawa Era. UNTIL RECENTLY ONLY THIRD DEGREE BLACK BELTS WERE PERMITTED TO LEARN THIS ANCIENT KOBUJITSU WEAPON . . . TAUGHT IN STRICT SECRECY. Now these devastating methods requiring NO PHYSICAL STRENGTH, NO BODILY CONTACT and a MINIMUM PHYSICAL EXERTION, NO APPLICATION OF YOUR HANDS OR FEET—are revealed to YOU regardless of your past experience or your lack of experience in the Martial Arts, by Dr. Andrew S. Linick, Nunchaku Master, who has broken away from the Oriental tradition of "secrecy" to teach YOU—AT HIS OWN RISK!

NEVER FEAR ANYONE AGAIN! The Nunchaku is a combination of two **pieces of solid wood, twelve** inches long, weighing well over a Pound. The Chaku was originally used by Okinawan farmers to pound produce on farms and in fields. It is sometimes referred to as sticks and chain. Horsehair was originally used because of its high-tensile strength; rope, nylon and chain were substituted with more devastating effects! In about thirty hours of instruction, YOU will immediately learn how a smaller, weaker man, even a woman can overpower and disable a 200 pound brute in a matter of seconds! Read On!

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- Swings
- Blocks & Counters
- Techniques in Combination
- Defense Against Knife
- Defense Against Pistol
- Nunchaku for Women
- Training Equipment
- Defense Against Two
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"I NEVER STOPPED EATING – YET I LOST 18 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS!"

FAT-BURNING SYSTEM - FOR THE BODY

POSITIVE PROOF THIS SYSTEM REALLY WORKS... AND FAST!!

My name is Brad Mitchell. For many years I have helped thousands of people lose weight. And I believe I can help you!

I realize that today, there are so many weight loss products and programs on the market, that you are probably thoroughly confused as to which one is truly effective.

Everyone, both young and old is striving for that slim, sleek, youthful and energetic figure. The problem is how to achieve such a shape without damage to your health and at the same time keep your energy level high in order to cope with the tensions and rapid pace of today's world.

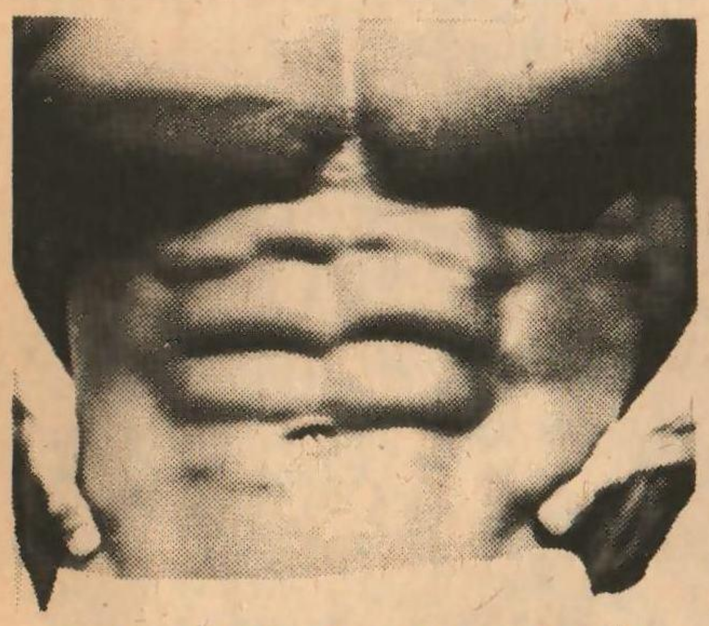
I have developed such a system!

I firmly believe that this Amazing Fat Burning system is the most effective system ever. I should know, just take a look at my before and after pictures. I lost 18 pounds of ugly fat, in only 15 days.

And, believe it or not, I kept my stomach full of food (no hunger pains).

And, my wife lost 40 pounds in only 30 days!

Since then, I have been continuously researching areas of nutrition, bodybuilding, and diet programs, in order to help thousands achieve that slim attractive shape desired by everyone. In fact everyone I put on this Amazing Fat Burning System, reported that they made fantastic weight loses--fast and easily!



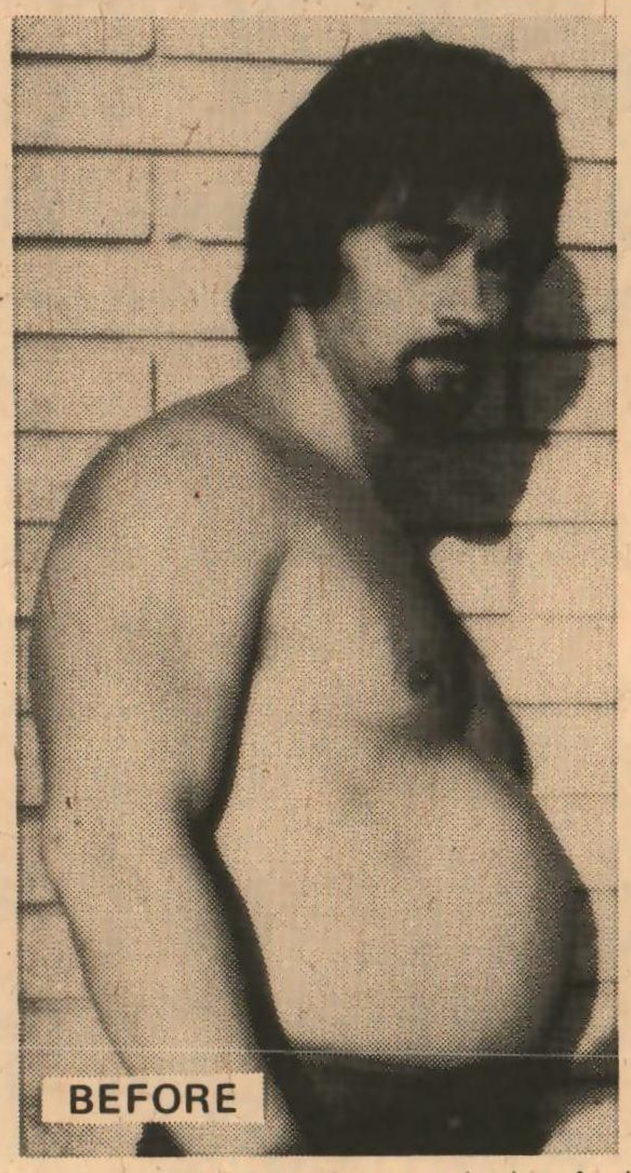
FREE WAIST COURSE!!

Order your Fat-Burning System today and we'll send you FREE our fantastic ABDOMINAL COURSE. This big book will show you how to have a trim, muscular waist in the fastest time possible! Get rid of that pot-belly and have a sexy, trim waist. You'll look and feel like a new man!

IS IT THE WORLDS FASTEST, MOST EFFECTIVE FAT BURNING SYSTEM EVER?

I sincerely think it is! Why? Because many of the principles and methods used are the same as those used by top physique champions to eliminate all excess fat.

In fact, many physique champions reduce their body fat to the extreme, so that the skin becomes almost paper thin. Certainly you don't want to become extremely thin. But, it's nice to know that the Fat Burning System can accomplish



almost any weight reduction you desire. And isn't that what you want?

This system is so unique and effective (because it really works)--so much so, that we have had the system copyrighted with the US Government, so that the secrets cannot be copied and stolen!

MAN OR WOMAN--YOUNG OR NOT SO YOUNG--THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Everyone can use this system, regardless whether you're young or not so young. It doesn't matter whether you're 10 or 100 pounds overweight, or how many times you have tried to get into shape. With this new system you'll lose weight faster than ever before. In fact you'll have more energy, strength and endurance so that you will feel younger and enjoy a fuller more active life.

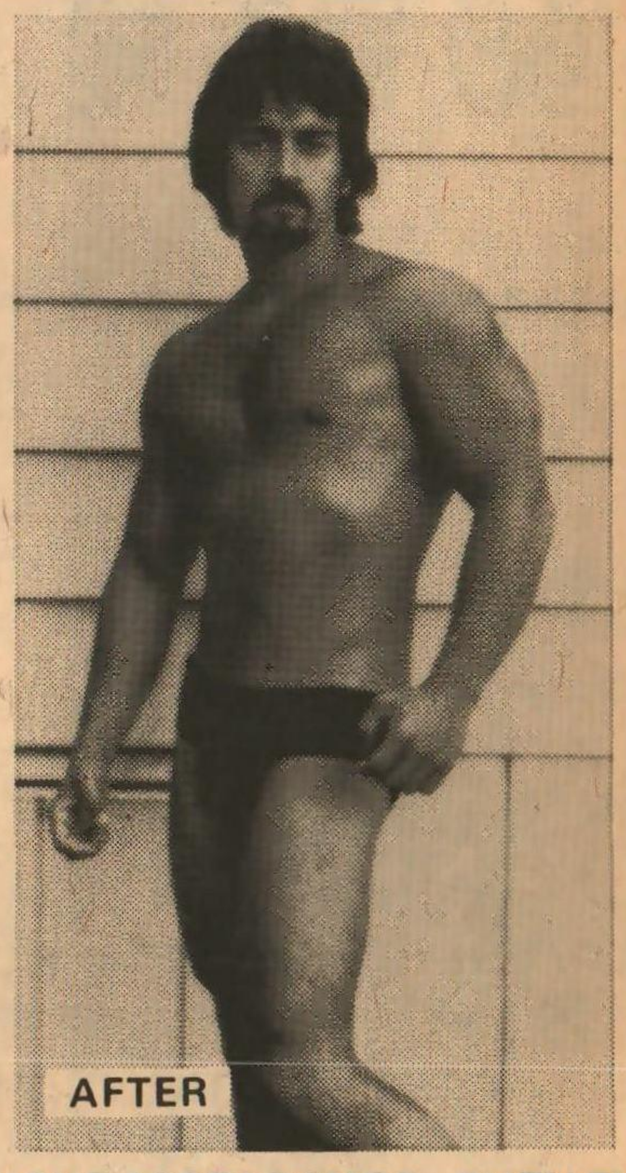
I HAVE A SUPER EXERCISE FOR YOU! MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JOGGING!

To help you loose that fat even faster, I've developed a program for a Fun exercise that is more effective than jogging (in the same amount of time), yet it can be done in the privacy of your own bedroom. It takes only several minutes, three times a week to perform this unique exercise! This exercise is done by top athletes and even astronauts. You won't believe how fast your energy level will rise (and how fast you'll get back into shape).

THIS AMAZING SYSTEM REQUIRES ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME!

This system requires a small amount of your time (and some effort), but the results will be nothing short of miraculous! Our program offers you plenty of food to eat, plus supplements that will also help burn off the excess fat.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE TRIM AND SLIM...AND WITHIN DAYS BEGIN TO SEE A REAL DIFFERENCE



IN YOUR APPEARANCE--THEN THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Remember, it doesn't matter how many times you have tried to lose weight, your time has finally come, with the Amazing Fat Burning System!

A healthy slim, trim and energetic figure is our goal--make it yours!

SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST DAYS...OR RETURN EVERYTHING FOR A FULL REFUND!

You have nothing to loose except fat. Try the Amazing Fat Burning System for a couple of weeks--if you don't feel that the results are fantastic in every way, you can return the system to us, and you'll get a full refund. Just like that! No questions asked.

Give it a try today.

Brad Mitchell
27313 Plymouth Rd., Dept VI-1
Detroit, Michigan 48239

Okay, Brad, I accept your offer! But I've got to feel that the Amazing Fat Burning System is the greatest and that the results will be nothing short of miraculous. Otherwise I'll send everything back for a full refund! I enclose $9.95. (cash, check or money order)

Please charge Bank Americard ☐ Master Charge ☐

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Wrestling

1977 ANNUAL

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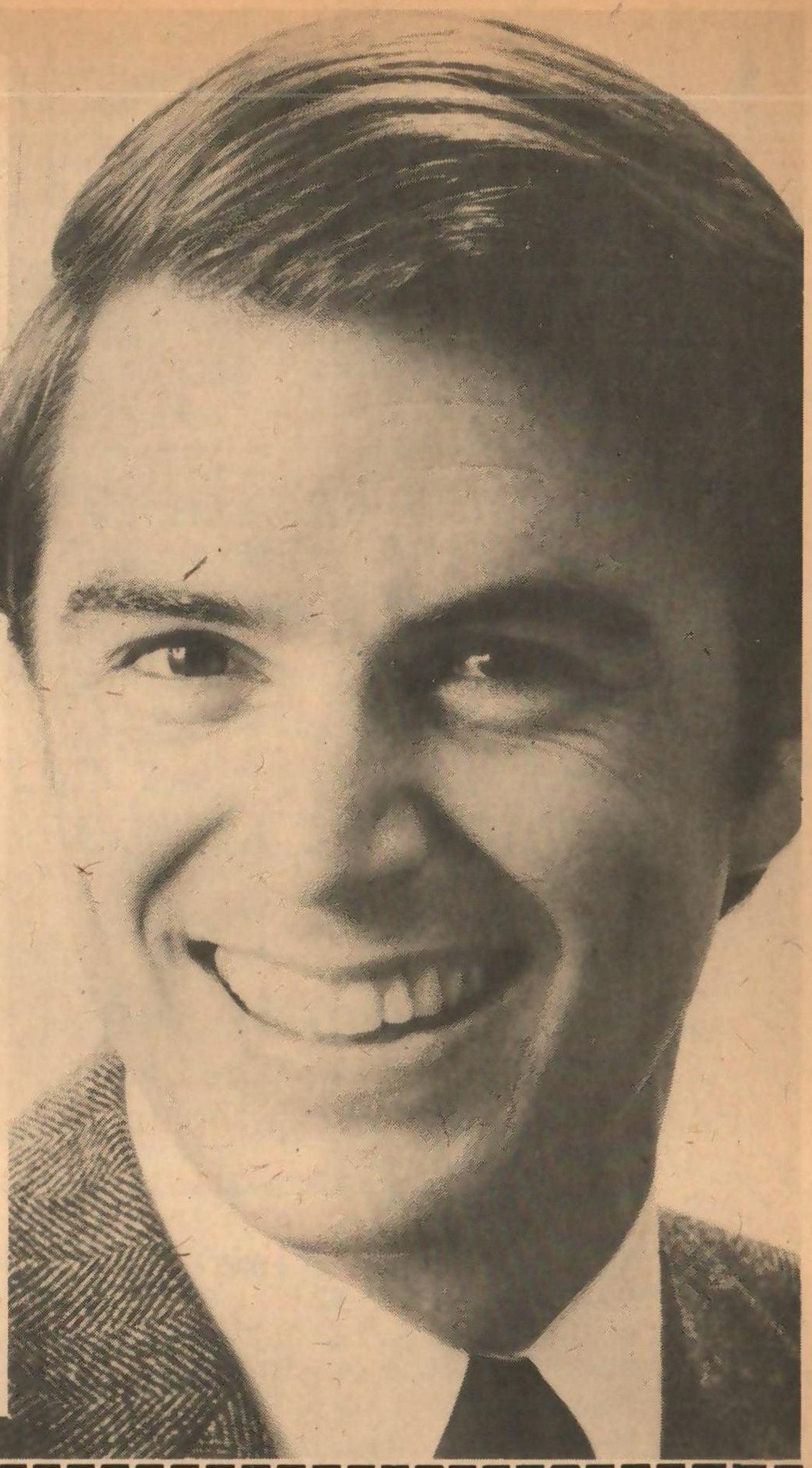

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OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO
1—STAN STASIAK
2—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
3—STAN HANSEN
4—BRUISER BRODIE
5—IVAN PUTSKI
6—TOR KAMATA
7—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
8—VICTOR RIVERA
9—BILLY WHITE WOLF
10—BOBO BRAZIL

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE
1—VERNE GAGNE
2—BILLY ROBINSON
3—PETER MAIVIA
4—BARON VON RASCHKE
5—BLACKJACK LANZA
6—BOBBY DUNCUM
7—GREG GAGNE
8—MAD DOG VACHON
9—JIM BRUNZELL
10—CHRIS TAYLOR

MOST POPULAR

1—ANDRE THE GIANT
2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
3—IVAN PUTSKI
4—MIL MASCARAS
4—DUSTY RHODES
6—WAHOO MCDANIEL
7—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
8—VICTOR RIVERA
9—ROCKY JOHNSON
10—BRUISER

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

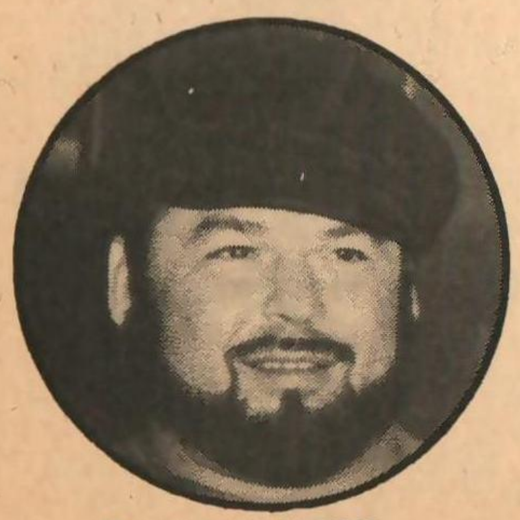
CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK
1—DUSTY RHODES
2—JACK BRISCO
3—ROCKY IOHNSON
4—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
5—MR. WRESTLING II
6—HARLEY RACE
7—PAMPERO FIRPO
8—FRITZ VON ERICH
9—DORY FUNK JR.
10—JERRY LAWLER

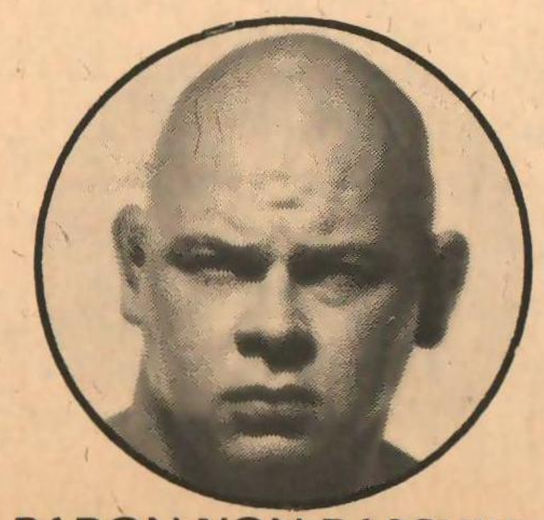
TAG TEAMS

1—THE EXECUTIONERS
2—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
3—BOBBY DUNCUM & BLACKJACK LANZA
4—THE HOLLYWOOD BLONDS
5—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW & BILLY WHITE WOLF
6—BOB BACKLUND & STEVE KEIRN
7—PAT PATTERSON & TONY GAREA
8—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
9—THE MONGOLS
10—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL

MOST HATED

1—THE SHEIK
2—STAN HANSEN
3—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
4—THE ASSASSIN
5—NICK BOCKWINKLE
6—STAN STASIAK
7—BOBBY DUNCUM
8—MR. FUGI
9—BRUISER BRODIE
10—MAD DOG VACHON


IVAN PUTSKI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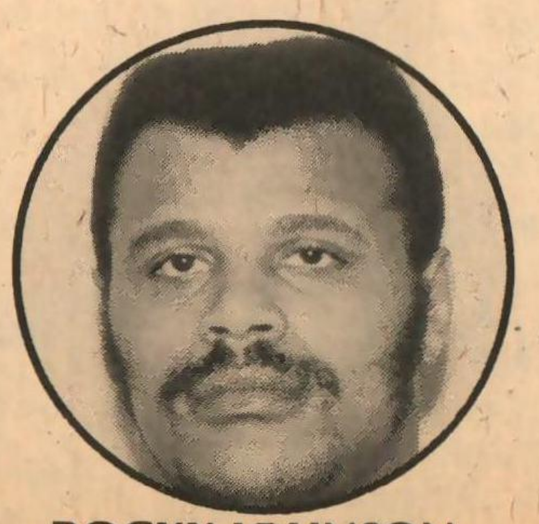
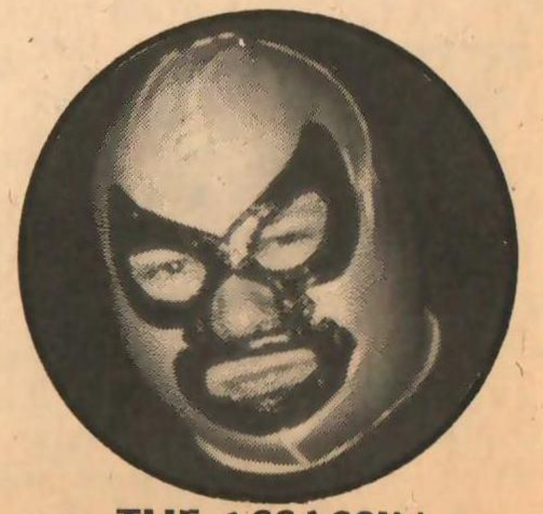

ROCKY JOHNSON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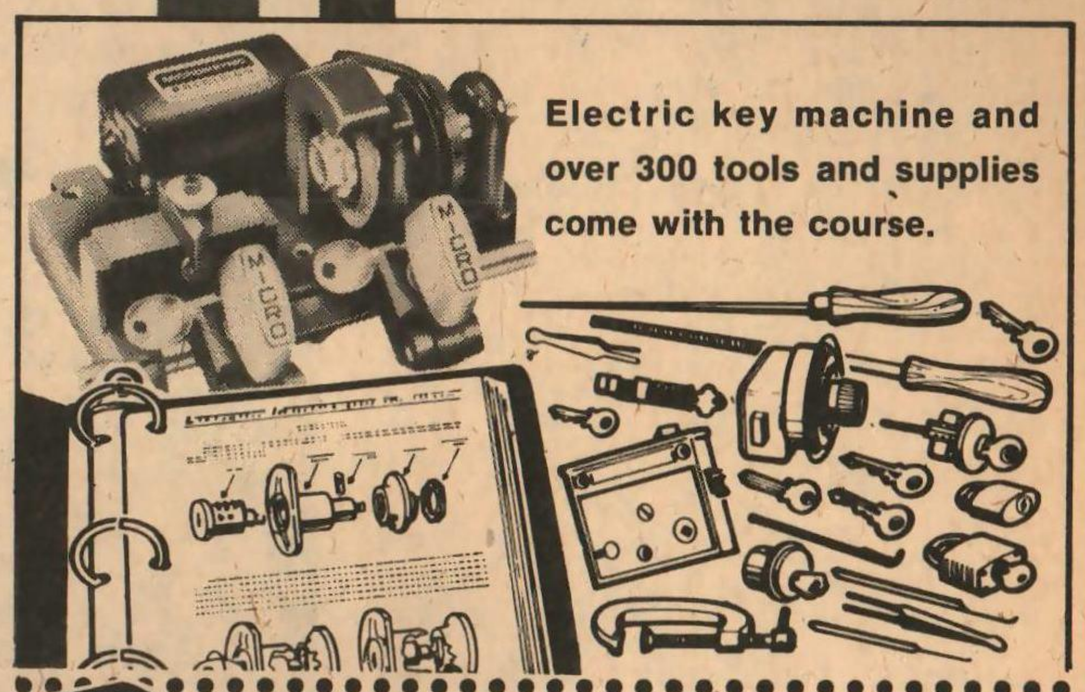
Richard Kennedy, Philadelphia, Pa.



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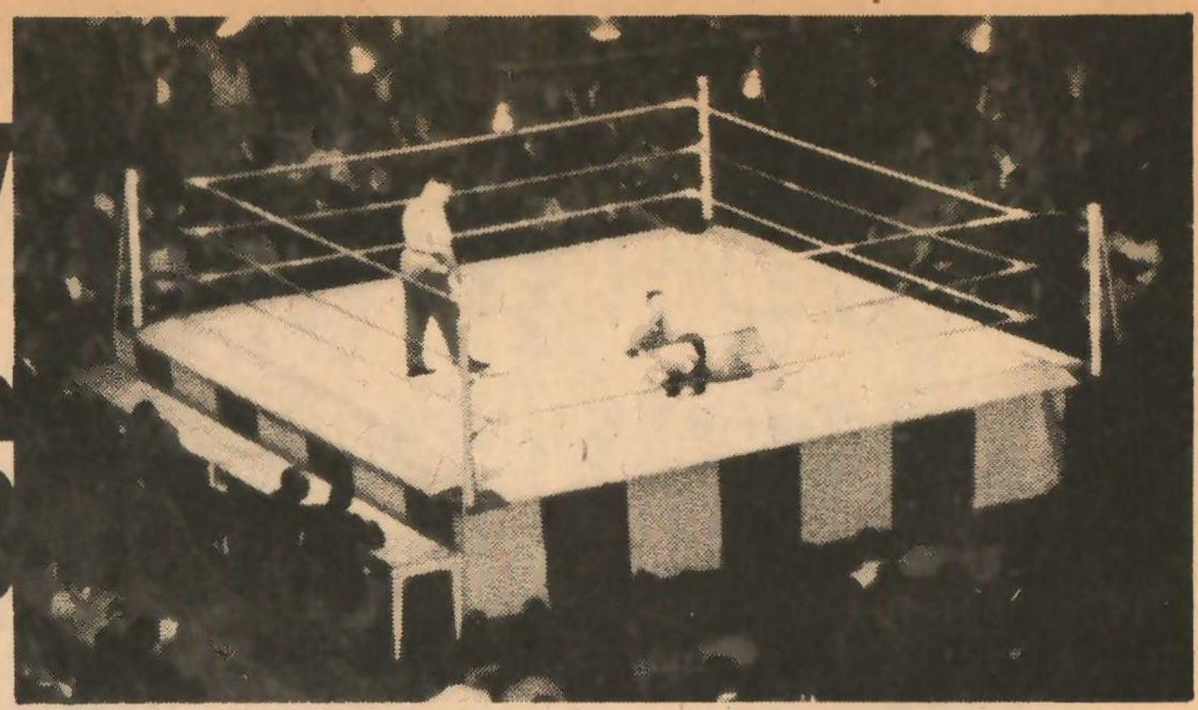
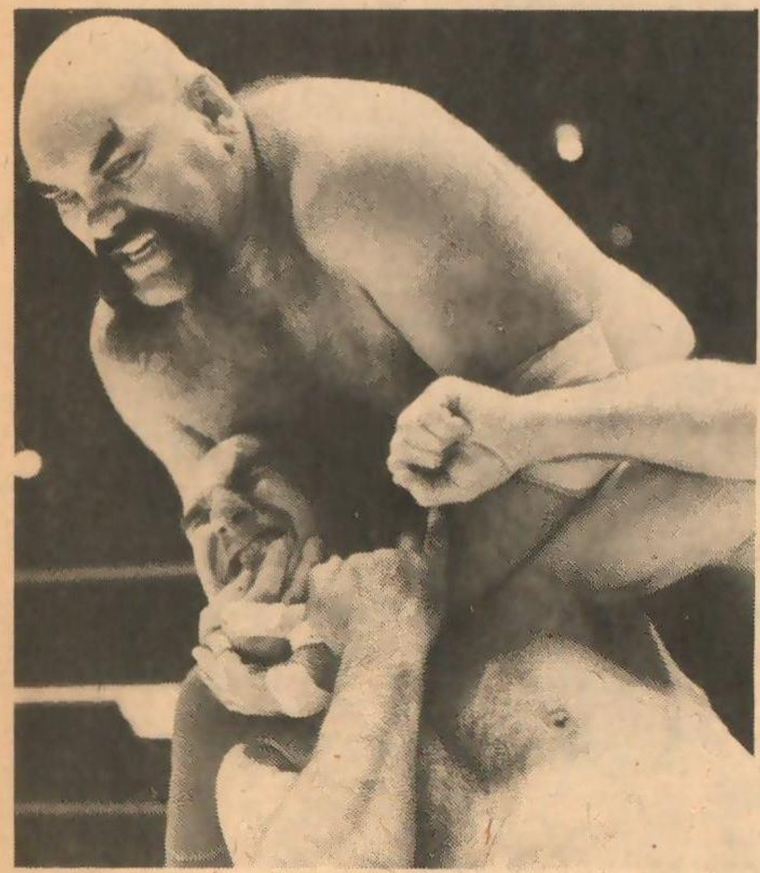
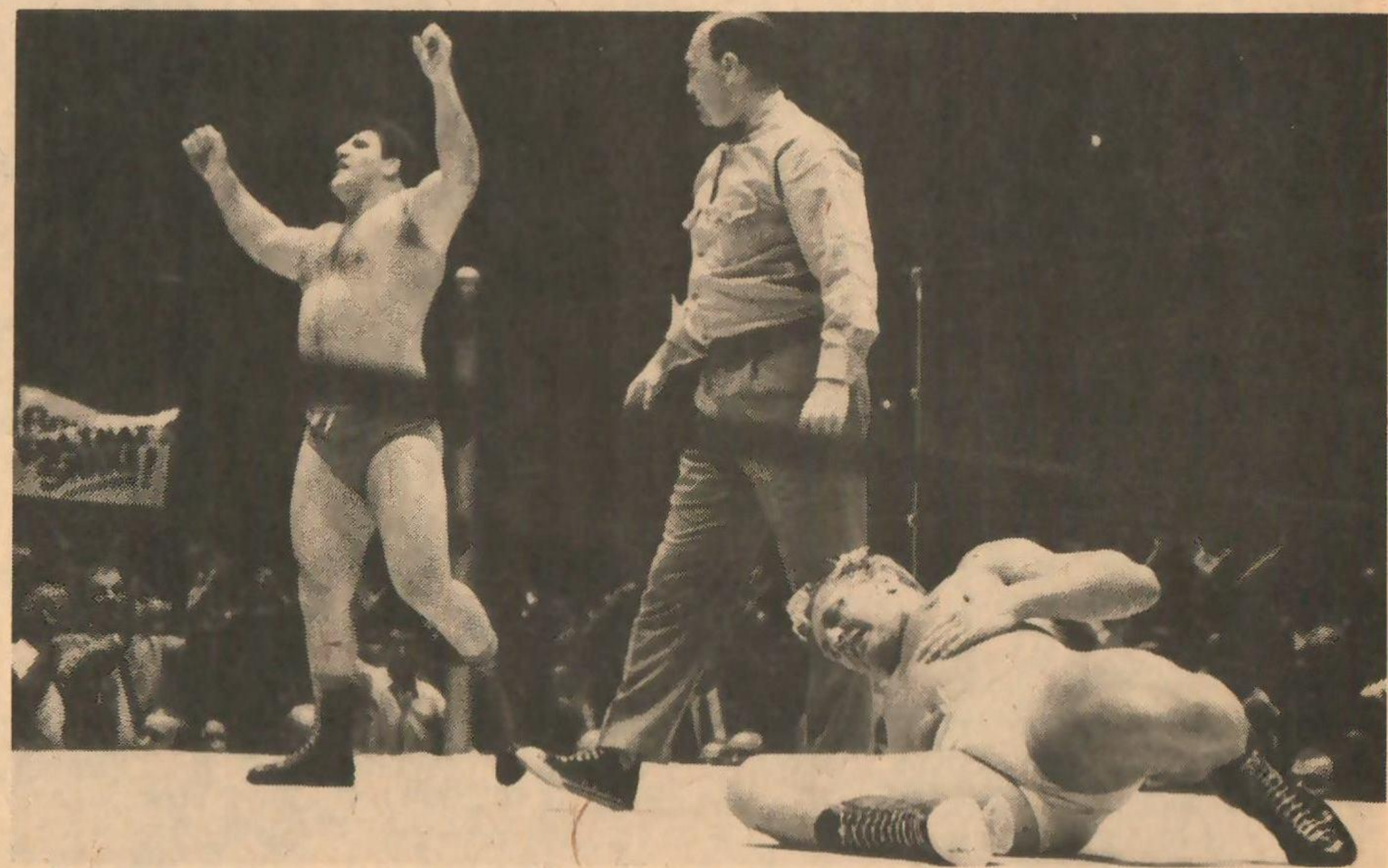






Ox Baker strangles Hans Schmidt in a wild brawl (above left). Fans loved the analysis of Ox. Bruno wins the belt from Buddy Rogers (above) in one of the champ's best matches. People wonder just how good Chavo Guerrero is. Dory Jr. knows (below).

BRUNO IS THE BEST

I just finished reading Wrestling Annual #17 for the fifth time. I loved the article on "The Best Matches in Bruno Sammartino's Career." I just couldn't wait for it to be published. After all, Bruno was, is, and always will be my favorite wrestler. Whenever I have the opportunity to see him wrestle, it is a thrill for me.

Good luck to Bruno Sammartino in his future matches. And keep up the great work in publishing your great wrestling magazine.

JERRY DeCICCO
Jersey City, N.J.

A FASCINATING STUDY

Your article, "Ox Baker: The Misunderstood Killer" (WRESLING ANNUAL #17), was excellent. It was an absorbing, fascinating look at a man whose psychological profile has never been adequately explored before.

Your resident expert, Dr. Manfred E. Wilson, has done a very complete job of looking into Baker's behavior. He is to be commended for his perception. He, unlike anyone else, has seen qualities in the wrestler which truly constitute his personality.

Please keep up the good work, Dr. Wilson. Your analyses of wrestlers are the best I have ever read.

JEFFERSON MILLER
Augusta, Ga.

THE DECIDING FACTOR

After reading "Just How Good is Chavo Guerrero?" (WRESTLING ANNUAL #17), I sat down and thought for a long time about the question posed by the article. I have come to some definite conclusions, which I would like to share with you.

When Chavo first came onto the wrestling scene, he became an overnight sensation. He possessed a great deal of skill for a man so young, he had a charismatic personality, and it appeared he was destined for greater glory. In other words, he *seemed* good.

Everyone—the fans and the media—suddenly latched onto Chavo's rising star. He was the sure winner, or so we thought. But careful examination has proven there may be a few chinks in Guerrero's shining armor.

There has not yet been the remarkable improvement in his skills everyone expected. He is as good a wrestler now as he was when he started. As time goes on, more of his opponents are beginning to see how to break through Chavo's defenses. This is not good.

(Continued on page 10)

How To Get The Inca Sun God To Bring You Miracles Of Wealth & Happiness (As He Has For Me).

An amazing but true experience that changed my entire life. By Robert L. McCarthy.

Just a few years ago I was really down on my luck. I could never seem to make ends meet. I had a job I hated and I could feel the ax about to fall.

I'd had an operation on my ankle and the cast had just been off a few days when my employers sent me on a business trip to Peru. (I told them my leg was still very weak and a long trip might injure it again. They told me that was **my** problem).

With a family to support I was not in any position to argue, so with cane in hand I hobbled off to Peru, which turned out to be the greatest blessing of my life.

Lost City Of The Incas.

While I was there I was overcome by a strong urge to visit Machu Picchu, the sacred "Lost City" of the great Inca empire that ruled much of South America for more than 500 years. It actually sits **above** the clouds high in the Andes Mountains, completely unknown to modern civilization until it was rediscovered in 1911. A masterpiece of engineering, it is built of huge boulders (some weighing hundreds, even thousands) of tons, cut and set in place like the precision jewels of a fine watch.

A Little Help From Their U.F.O. Friends?

Just how the Incas did it is a mystery that still baffles engineers today. Some learned experts even claim they had a little help from their friends. If you have read Von Daniken's best selling book, "Chariot Of The Gods", you have an idea who these friends were. His theory (and it fits right in with Inca legend) is that many of the fantastic Inca constructions were actually developed for use by U.F.O.s.

I made a little discovery of my own.

In my tour of Machu Picchu I got my cane stuck between two rocks near the "Altar of The Sun God". As I freed my cane a small object came out with it. When I examined it, I got the shock of my life. It was perfectly round with a jagged edge and on one side was carved the features of a face. It was obviously an amulet of The Sun God himself.

It's against the law to pirate historical treasures out of Peru.

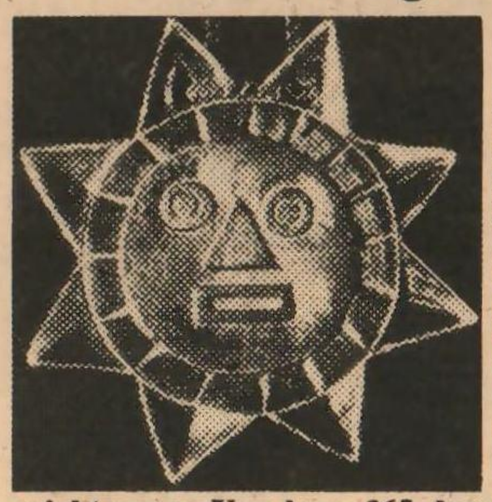
Not wanting to risk any trouble I kept my find a secret until I got back to the States. And since my little treasure was not a precious stone in the ordinary sense, like the great gems that fill the museums in Lima, I kept it as a sort of good luck charm.

More precious than emeralds.

To me this simple amulet has a power more precious than any emerald or ruby. I don't understand how it works any more than I understand any of the mysteries of Machu Picchu. All I really know is that from the moment I first held it in my hand, my life started changing dramatically for the better.

One miracle after another.

It's been less than four years since I made my little discovery. And in that time my fortunes have turned upward like a shooting star. Today I'm no longer worried about being fired. I own a controlling interest in a multi-million dollar organization that provides me and my family with all the luxuries we'll ever need. I live in a home valued at $150,000 +, drive a $15,000 car, work as little or as much as I feel like, and have the time and money to go anywhere I please. Last year it was Europe and the Caribbean. Maybe next year I'll take the whole family to Machu Picchu. (It's the least I can do for all the good luck I found there).



When you get your amulet, look into the Sun God's face until you can picture him with your eyes closed. Then press the amulet against your temple or forehead and make your wish. Wish for wealth, success, health, power, love, anything. And watch your dreams begin to come true right away. You have 365 days in which to prove it works. Or it costs you absolutely nothing!

Share my good fortune with others.

In the last few years I've told many of my friends about the power of the Sun God amulet I found. And in every instance they wished they had something to give **them** the same amazing luck they'd seen me enjoy. Then one day I decided to have a jewelry company make some exact copies of my amazing amulet to give my friends for gifts. I didn't think any more of it . . . until they all began asking me if they could **buy** some more amulets to give their friends and relatives. And then they all told me the most fantastic stories of how their luck had improved suddenly.

Everyone who's had one wouldn't be without one.

They all said they didn't believe in any kind of "magic" and weren't the least bit superstitious. And all that good luck was probably a fantastic coincidence, but they weren't taking any chances. Whatever it was about that little Sun God, they weren't sure, but they certainly weren't going to be without one. They were concerned that if they should lose theirs they'd be out of luck, since no store carries them. At this point I went back to the same jewelry company and gave them the exclusive contract to reproduce, right down to the last detail, a limited quantity of the same little Sun God amulets my friends have all worn with such success. (Each faithfully copied from the original I found at Machu Picchu).

The Sun God has the proud handmade look of a genuine antique.

He stares at you with the wisdom of the ages and the appearance of very old silver. And though He is a God and not a Goddess — He is in no way a male chauvinist. He favors men and women equally. With His matching 23" chain, He looks just as great against a low-cut gown as He does a hairy chest.

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If you don't believe in the power of this little Inca Sun God, just order one and find out!

He is guaranteed for 365 days of good luck. After owning Him for an entire year, if you don't honestly believe in His fantastic power to improve your luck . . . just send Him back in good condition for a full money-back refund. No questions asked.

Who knows where His power comes from?

Maybe it's from the same supernatural Being some experts believe helped the Incas build Machu Picchu. And maybe it's all in our minds. Perhaps this particular design, this image, is made to work like a key. When it touches our consciousness it simply unlocks a power which we all possess but are unaware of. Just because we don't yet understand it doesn't mean it doesn't work. It has for me and a lot of my friends. I believe it will for **you** as well.

Sincerely, Robert L. McCarthy

A sworn statement by Mr. McCarthy's Accountant.

I hereby certify that Mr. McCarthy does indeed own a multi-million dollar business. Which he has built up from virtually nothing in less than three years. It's one of the most startling success stories I've ever witnessed.

James Reilly
— James Reilly
Accountant

This is me amidst the Llamas at Machu Picchu. The sacred lost city of the Incas. High in the Andes Mountains of Peru. This picture was taken January 25, 1973, the day I found the little Inca Sun God amulet. (Just look at the size of those boulders behind me). Remember, the average Inca was under five feet tall. And they didn't have any horses, oxen, or other large beasts of burden. Now I ask you. Did they do it all by themselves? Or did they have a little help from the Sun God?

The sooner you mail this coupon, the sooner the Sun God can start bringing you good luck every day. But you'd better hurry — this is a limited edition. And not sold anywhere else!

Robert L. McCarthy, Dept. RS-2517
380 Madison Avenue, 19th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017

Rush me (quantity) of the limited edition authentic Inca Sun God amulets. The exact same design as the one Mr. McCarthy found at Machu Picchu and brought him such tremendous luck.

I understand that I may keep it for 365 days, at your risk. Money back if not 100% delighted with my new found luck. On that basis, here is $9.95 (plus 75¢ for postage and handling. Cash, check or money order. Payable to Robert L. McCarthy. Bring your friends good luck, too. Order 2 for $19.90 (And we'll pay postage and handling; so you save $1.50). Better order now. This is a limited edition, first come, first serve.

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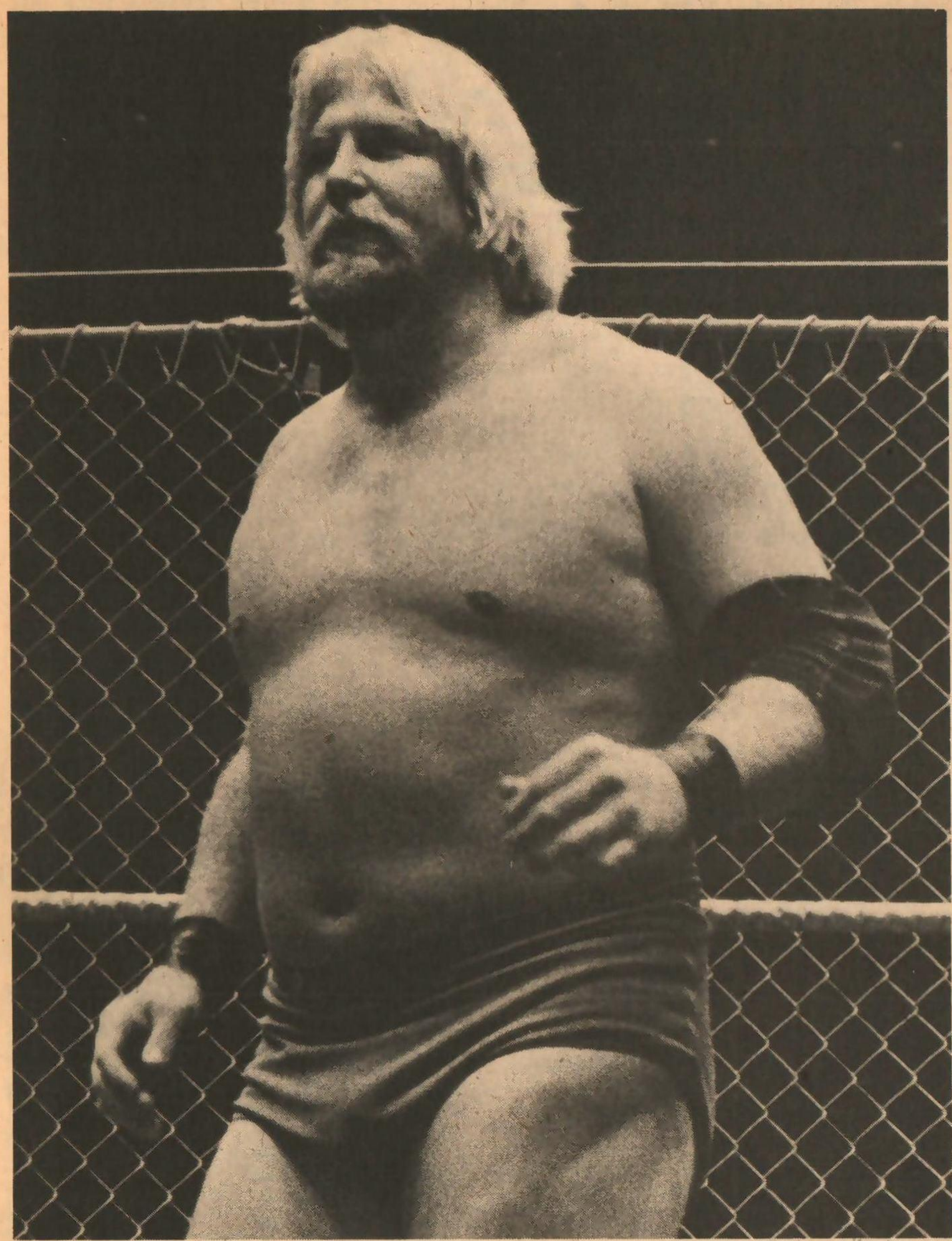
SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 8)



Stan Hansen—1976 was a very good year for the big man from Texas. And it is predicted by Nessin Durrell that 1977 could be good—but also bad for Stan. Big Stan says, "It will be my best year ever!"

If the young man does not start showing some improvement, it will only be a matter of time before he is just another broken down, battered man whose career has come to a crashing halt. It will be a pity, but that is the way it will happen.

ROBERT STRANGE
Salem, Oregon

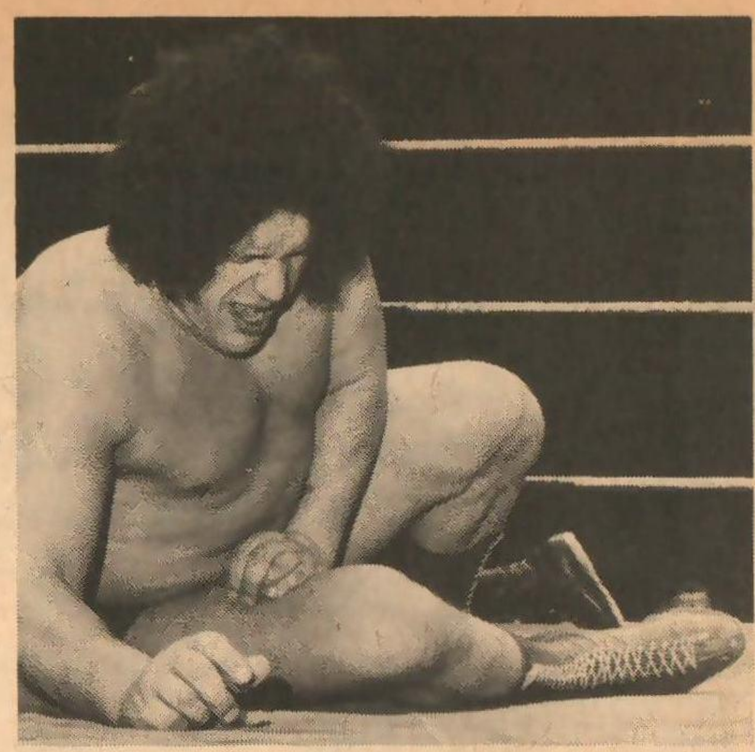
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

I read with great interest your article, "What the Future Holds for Wrestling's Top Stars" (WRESTLING ANNUAL #17). It was a very fascinating piece of work, and your astrologist has done an excellent job of seening into the future. Indeed, some of her predictions were startling.

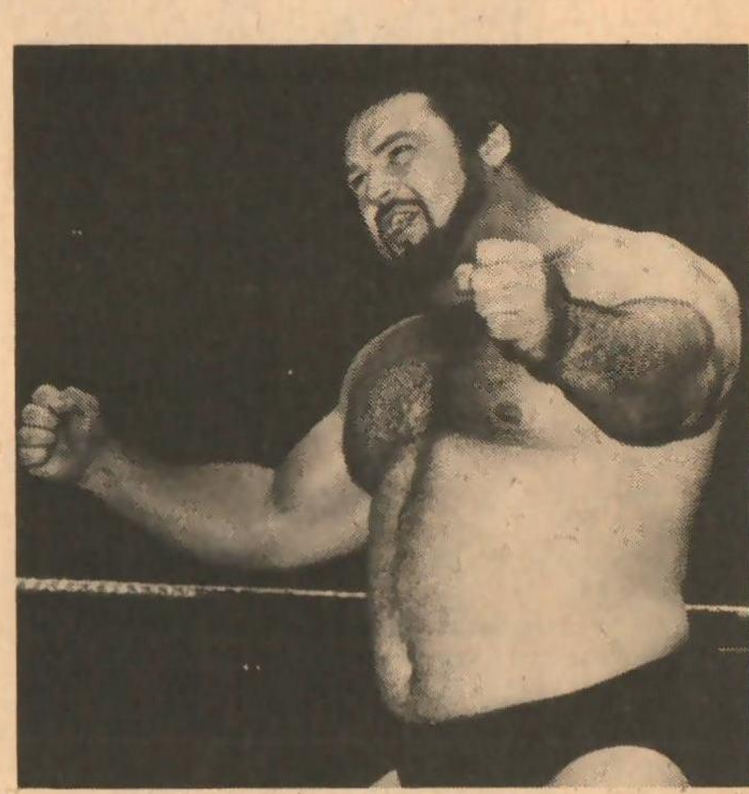
I was especially fascinated by the predictions for Stan Hansen. This wrestler has gained a great deal of notoriety over the past year. How he uses this, and how his opponents will react to him from now on will be of prime importance in the coming year. Therefore, Durrell's prediction, "Stan Hansen will probably be the biggest winner—and loser—of 1977," is quite significant.

At the end of 1977, it will be an interesting to see how accurate the predictions were.

MERLE JOHNSON
Reno, Nevada



It could be a very painful year for Andre the Giant (above). Does a happy future lie ahead for Ivan Putski and his Polish Army? Putski (below) says "Yes," but we say no!



ANDRE'S FUTURE

I was very upset after reading the predictions for Andre the Giant in "What the Future Holds for Wrestling's Top Stars." He is in for a very tough year if he is not careful.

I truly hope Andre follows your astrologer's advice closely. I would hate to see anything bad happen to him.

LESLIE KREMEN
Gary, Indiana

DON'T HURT PUTSKI

I truly hope your astrologer's predictions for Ivan Putski do not come true. I would hate to see him injured in 1977.

I was also sorry to hear that Ivan should not trust or listen to anyone but those closest to him. I hope he realizes the fans want to be close to him. We all love him and want to help him in any way we can.

It is just that we want what is best for Ivan.

MARYANNE URIAK
Cheektowaga, N.Y. □

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1

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This quick training course includes warm up, loosening and strengthening exercises such as sit ups, leg raises, push ups and basic exercises with which most of us are already familiar. Because of the kicking techniques used in Karate this course emphasizes stretching. Illustrated with 29 comprehensive photographs.

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3

COURSE #3

This course teaches you how to use your legs to impact devastating blows. The proper training of your natural ability to kick will give you two more TOUGH SHOTS at your would be attacker. Illustrated with 44 comprehensive photographs.

4

COURSE #4

Sweeps and Throws are easily learned by the average person. With this technique a child could throw an adult. This technique uses the attackers own body weight to knock him out. Sweeps and Throws combined with effective kicks will MAKE YOU A SUPER FIGHTER. Illustrated with 20 comprehensive photographs.

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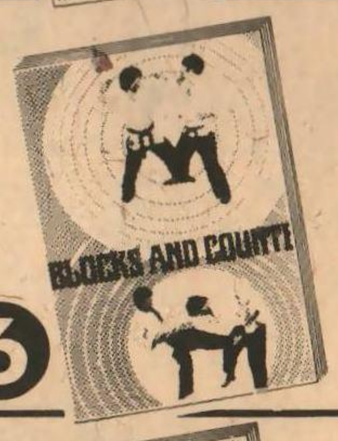
This course will teach you how to use your hands, elbows and fists most efficiently. This course also teaches proper focus and movement to hit hard in VITAL AREAS of your attacker. Illustrated with 26 comprehensive photographs.



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This course is the foundation of blocking and countering. This course teaches you to block any attack on your person and counter with a HARD STRIKE on your attacker. Illustrated with 21 comprehensive photographs.

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COURSE #7

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Favorite Wrestler _____

I like ☐ **Good Guys** ☐ **Bad Guys**

I'd Like As My Pen Pal:

☐ **Boys** ☐ **Girls** ☐ **Anyone**

You Have My Permission To Print My Picture.

Age _____

_____

Please Sign Your Name

FRED HILLER (22)
2643 W. Balmoral
Chicago, IL 60625
Enjoys sports.
Bruiser his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.

RALPH BUTERA (12)
447 42nd Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Likes basketball.
Mil Mascaras his
favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Anyone for PP's.

KIM CISLO (11)
56 Monmouth Avenue
Leonardo, NJ 07737
Enjoys rollerskating.
Jerry Brisco her
favorite. Likes
good guys. Girls
for pen pals.

ABE GARCIA
436 N 18 Street
San Jose, CA 95112
Collects coins.
Pedro Morales his
favorite. Likes
good guys. Boys
for pen pals.

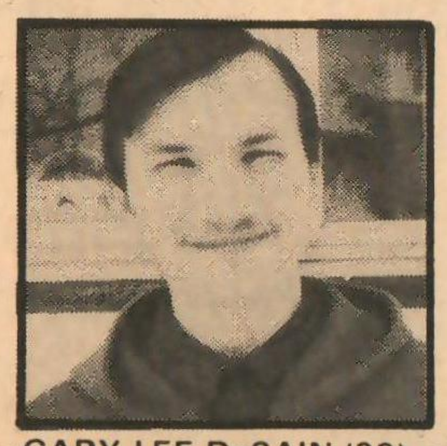
STEPHEN CAPPITELLI (11)
159 Nesbit Street
Weehawken, NJ 07087
Likes sports. Bob
Brazil his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for PP's.

KRIS ALTIERO (11)
RR 1 Box 432
Ringtown, PA 17967
Enjoys sports. El
Elympico his
favorite. Likes
good guys. Boys
for pen pals.

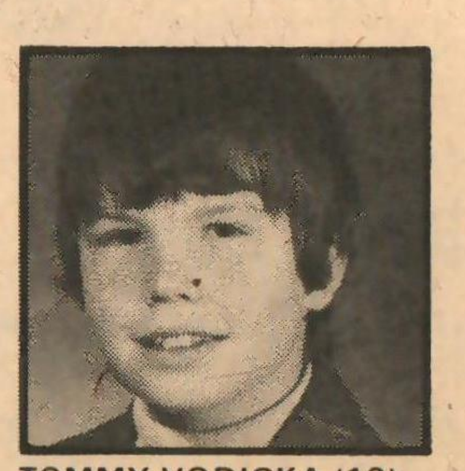
JIM LUCAS (13)
29 Robin Drive
Skillman, NJ 08558
Likes sports. Ivan
Putski his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.

IRENE GUZIK (17)
23 Trafton Street
Chicopee MA 01013
Enjoys softball.
Dean Ho her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for PP's.

WALTER REYNOLDS (16)
P.O. Box 15
Buford, GA 30518
Likes football.
Jack Brisco his
favorite. Likes
good guys. Girls
for pen pals.



GARY LEE DeSAIN (23)
Box 164, Vienna St. RD 3
Newark, NJ 14523
Enjoys music. Ernie Ladd
his favorite. Likes good
and bad guys. Girls for
pen pals.



TOMMY VODICKA (12)
62-44 Woodhaven Blvd.
Rego Park, NY 11374
Likes baseball. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.

THOMAS SHEMANSKI (9)
57-18 64th St.
Maspeth, NY 11378
Enjoys dancing. Davy
O'Hannon his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.

N PALS

NOREEN SAPP (13)
General Delivery
Cut Knife, SASK.
Enjoys reading. Chief Strongbow her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

JANET ADLAND (37)
79 Luxford Road
Mt. Druitt, N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA 2770
Enjoys knitting. Jack Brisco her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

WALTER ARNOLD (13)
51 S. Main Street
S. Norwalk, CT 06854
Collects pictures. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

MICHAEL ZINAMAN (15)
140-14 Donizetti Pl.
Bronx, NY 10475
Likes baseball. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for pen pals.

BARBARA RIGNEY (15)
50-25 39 Street
Long Island City, NY 11104
Enjoys dancing. Ivan Putski her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Boys for pen pals.

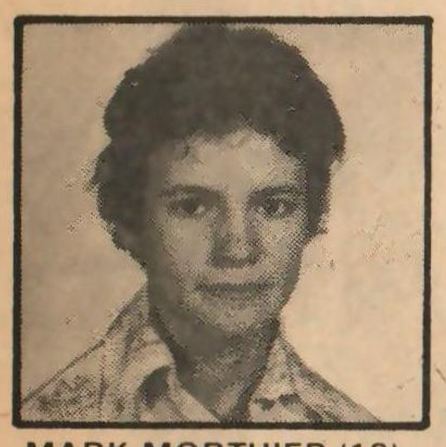
MICHELLE SMITH (18)
8466 Old Ocean View Rd.
Norfolk, VA 23518
Likes swimming. Wahoo McDaniel her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

MARC GREENHUT (12)
61 Dalton Street
Long Beach, NY 11561
Enjoys motorcycles. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for PP's.

JOE RYAN (16)
25 Stonehaven Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
Likes football. Ric Flair his favorite. Likes bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

JOAN RYAN (11)
25 Stonehaven Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
Enjoys tennis. Rufus R. Jones her favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

JOHN WELCH (19)
Route One
Antigo WI 54409
Likes sports. Chris Taylor his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



MARK MORTHIER (13)
75 Coyeman Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
Likes sports. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

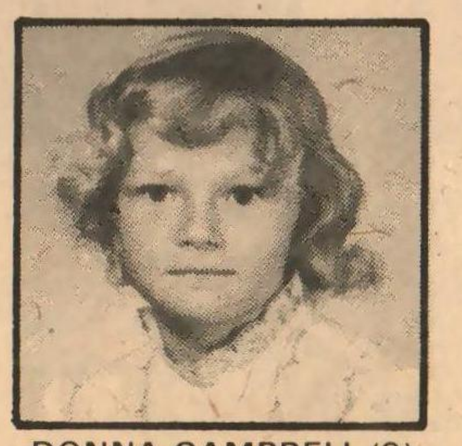
DAVID POSEY (11)
P.O. Box 202
McCamey, TX 79752
Collects magazines. Scott Casey his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

JOE PARADISE (14)
13 Bloomfield St.
Pawtucket, RI 02861
Likes music. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

TEDDY AIELLO (14)
1437 Zerage Ave.
Bronx, NY 10462
Likes sports. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

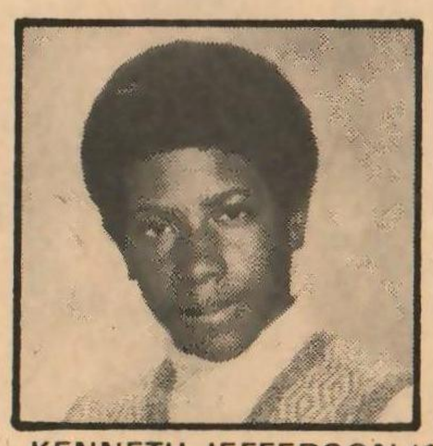
EARL ENGBINO (19)
2338 Kalaunu St. Bldg. #43
Honolulu HI 96819
Likes bowling. Mil Mascaras his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

JOEL MacLEAN (10)
39 Liberty Pl.
W. Keansburg, NJ 07734
Enjoys camping. Jack Brisco his favorite. Likes good guys and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



DONNA CAMPBELL (9)
RD 1, Rte 17K
Rock Tavern, NY 12576
Enjoys all sports. Mil Mascaras her favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

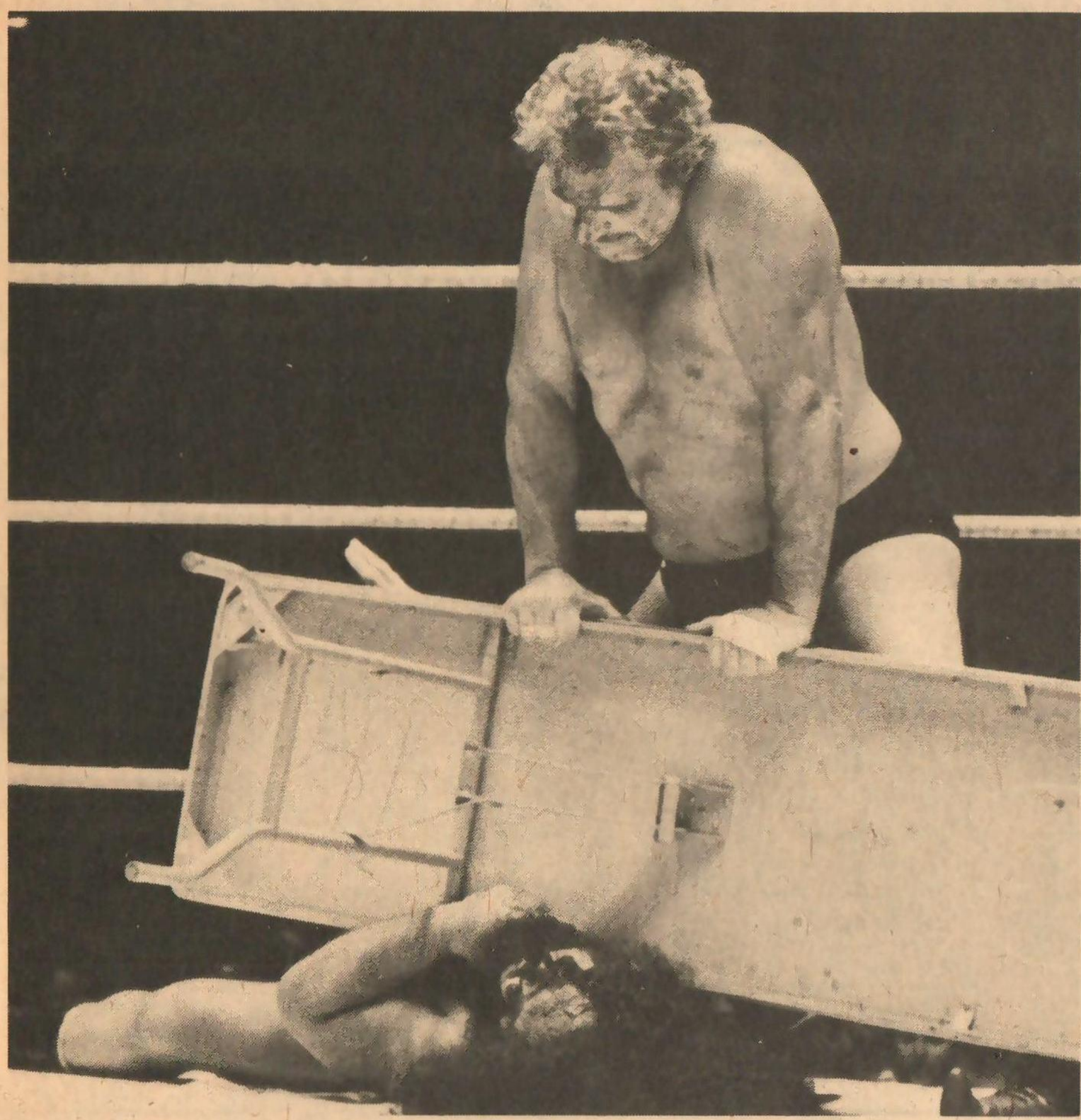
MICHAEL CAMPBELL (18)
RD 1 Rt. 17-K
Coldham, NY 12575
Likes hockey. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



KENNETH JEFFERSON (15)
120 Weequahic Avenue
Newark, NJ 07112
Enjoys football. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

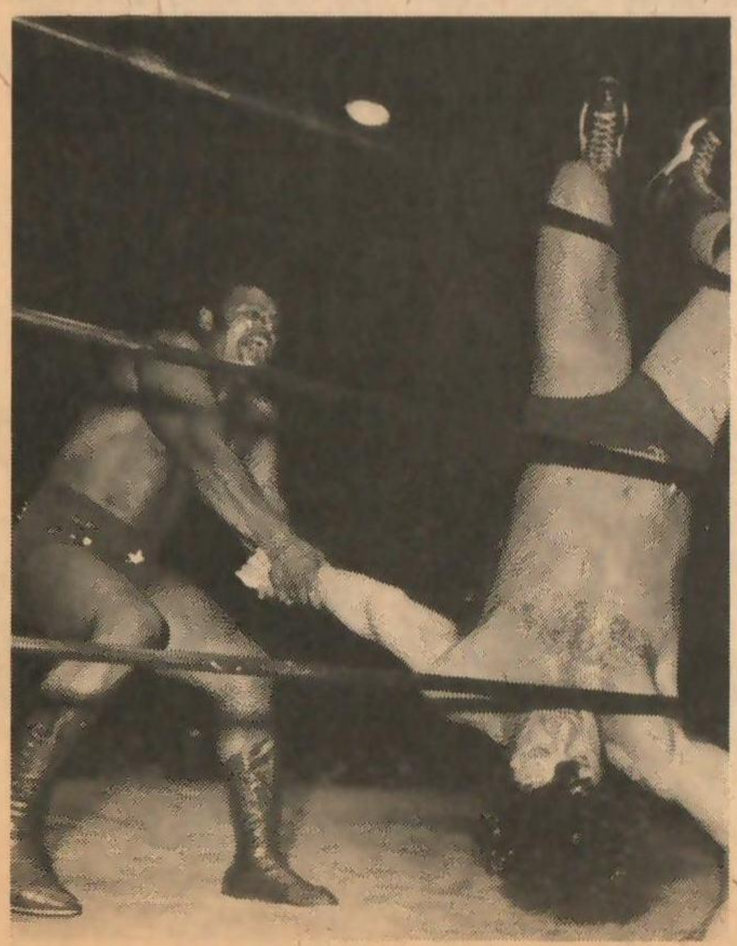
JANICE MAZZAFERRO (12)
86-06 126 St.
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
Enjoys sports. Bruno Sammartino her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for pen pals.

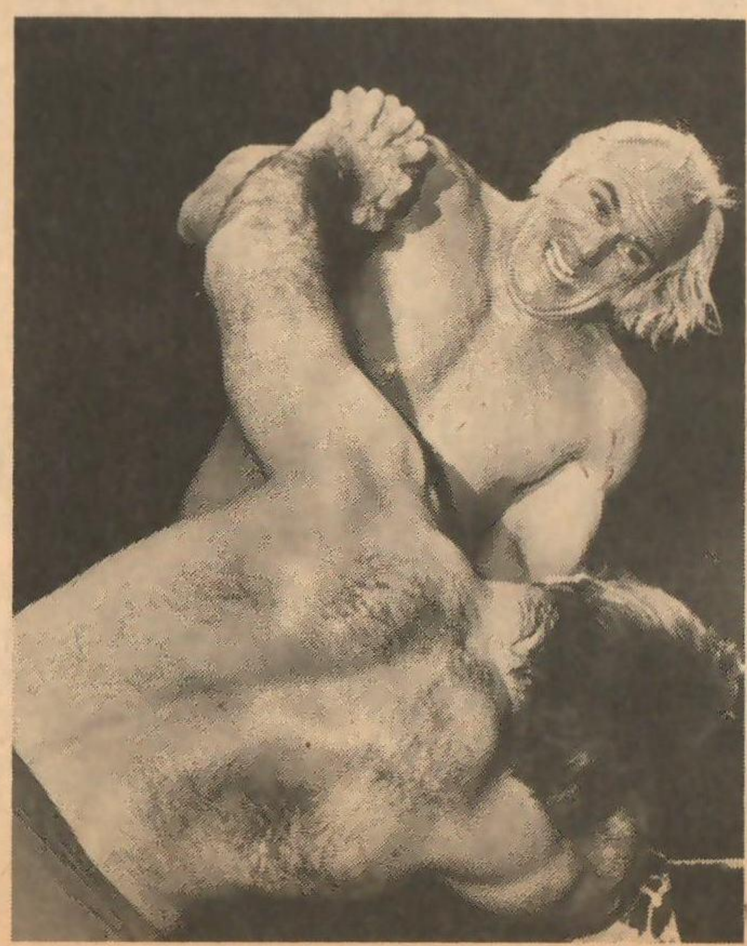
OUTSTANDING P

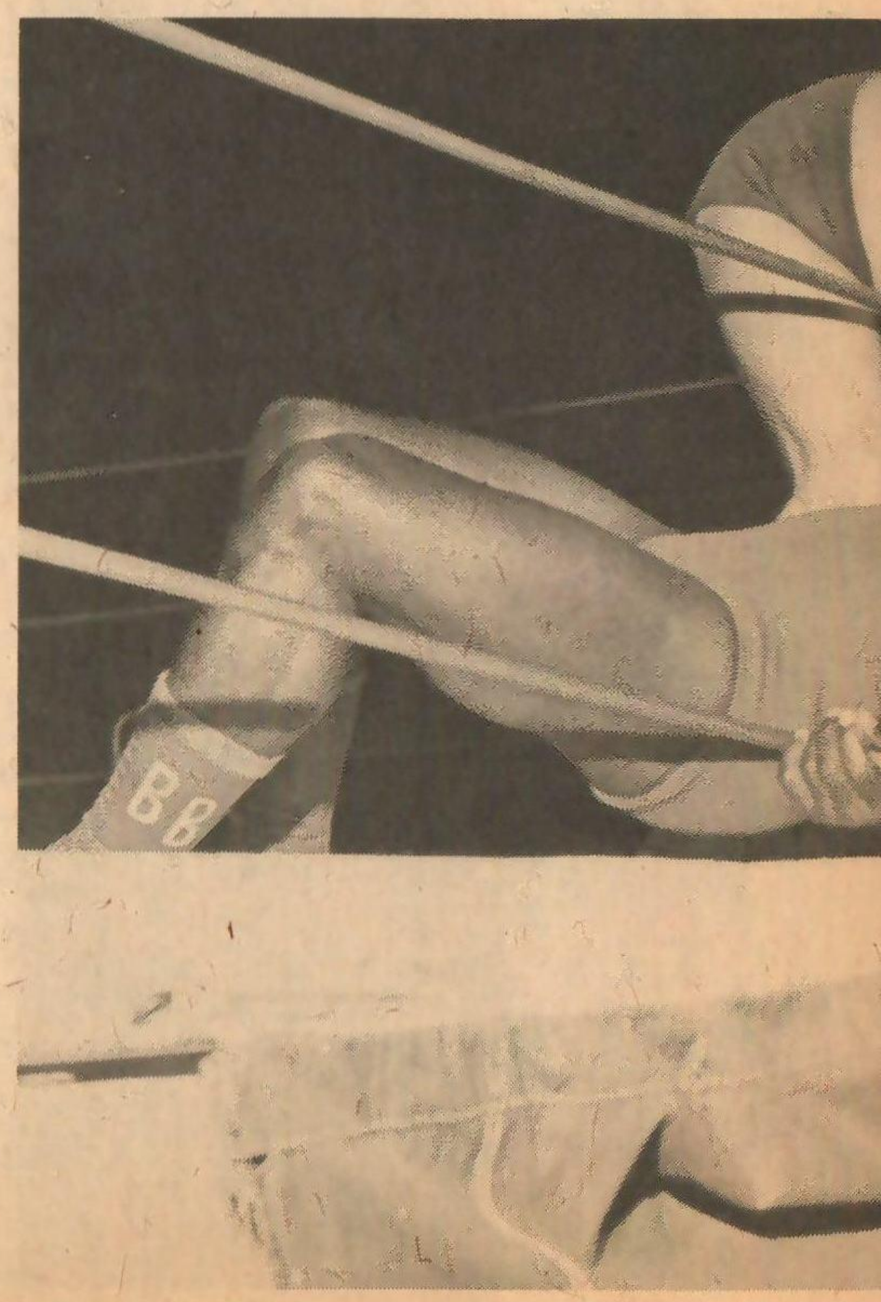


Above: Like a jungle beast, Ernie Ladd bites at the flesh of Chavo Guerrero's forehead. Below: Brute Bernard uses the ring apron to choke Bobo Brazil in their wild battle held early in 1976.

Above: Even the most hardened fan was shocked when Sheik smashed a press table down on Pampero Firpo's head and body. The Argentinian was almost crushed to death by the onslaught. Below left: As if he were a toy doll, Terry Funk is hurled through the air by Rocky Johnson. Funk was no doll later in the match when his illegal tactics almost broke Johnson's neck! Below Right: It's a test of strength between Bruno Sammartino and Billy Graham, the blond superstar seemingly getting the best of wrestling's living legend. Moments later, Bruno would begin to rally.

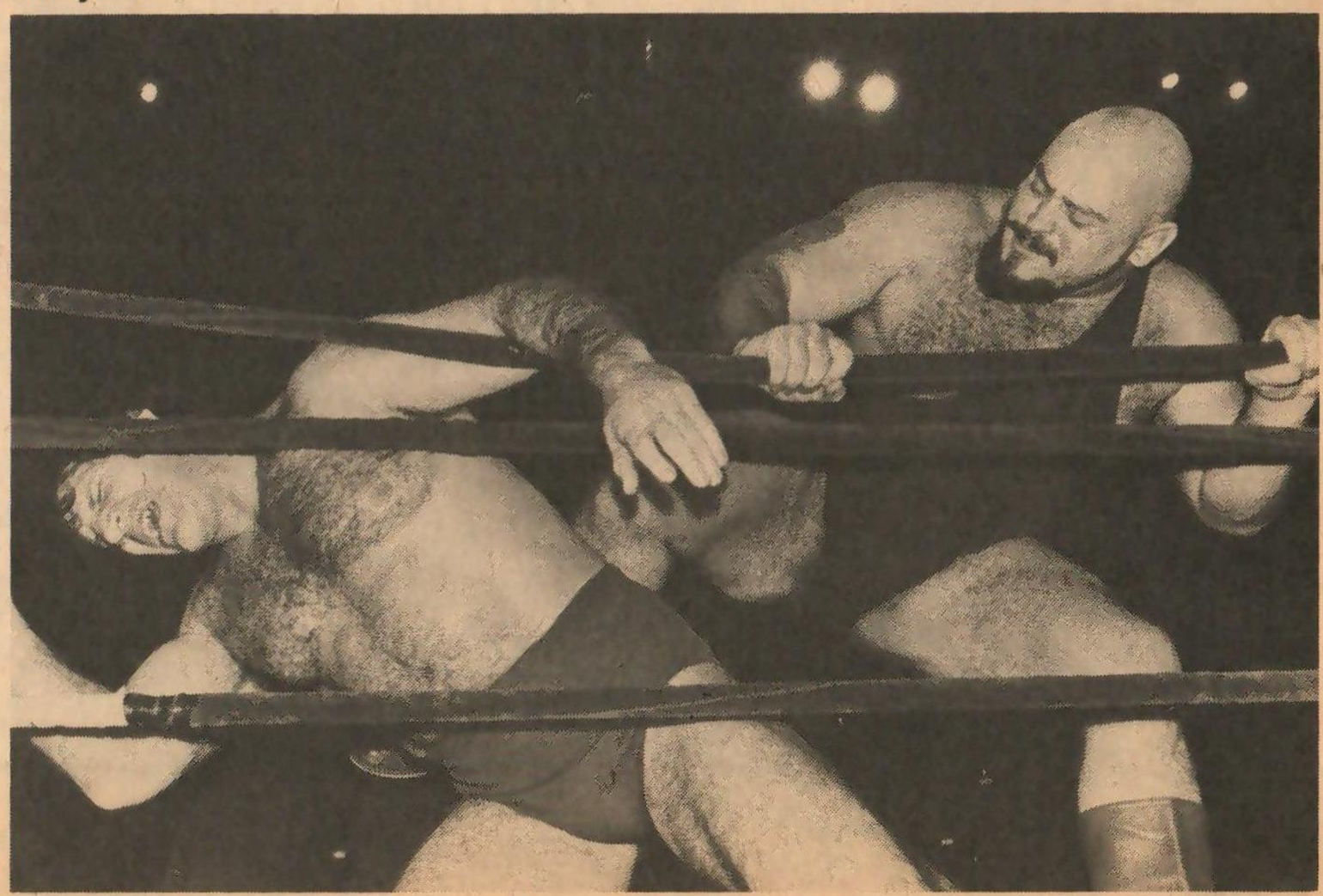






HOTOS OF 1976

Above: It is war during the introduction when Jerry Brisco and Moondog Mayne go after each other. Mayne tried a sneak-attack only to find Brisco waiting for him with open arms and a will to brawl. It is not one of the blond grappler's more successful maneuvers! Below: A smashing kick to the ribs has Bruno Sammartino crumpling in agony. This is one of the many rough moments Sammartino had against Ivan Koloff this year.



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BACK ISSUES OF THE WRESTLER

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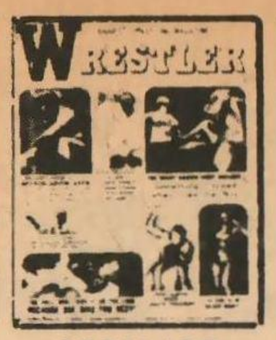
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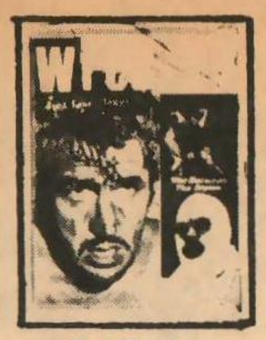
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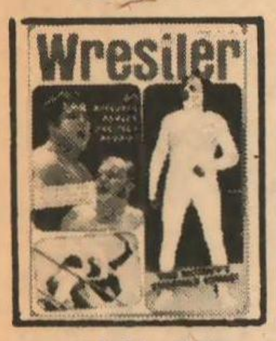
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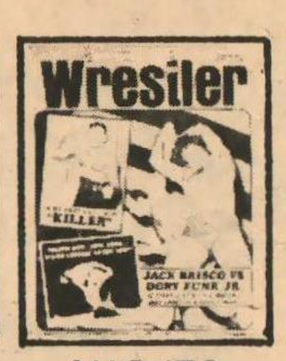
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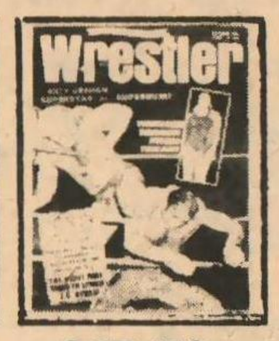
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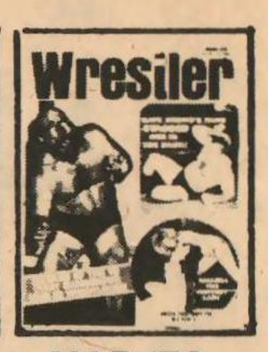
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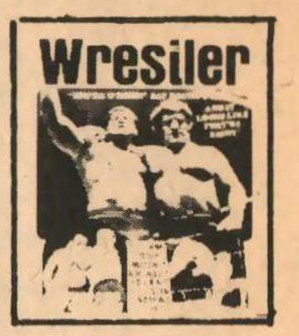
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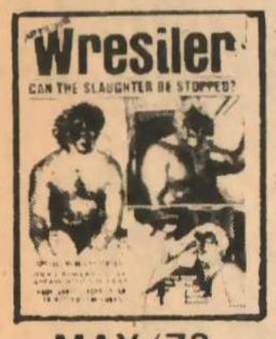
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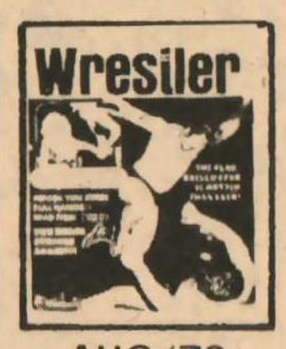
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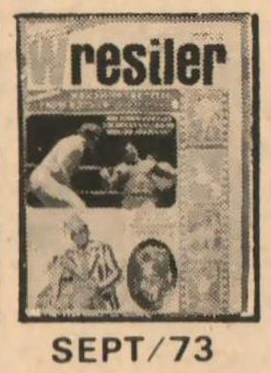
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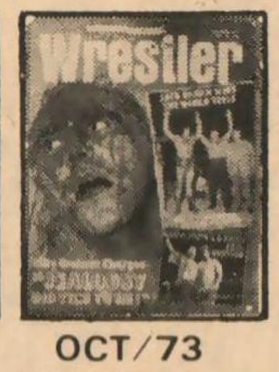
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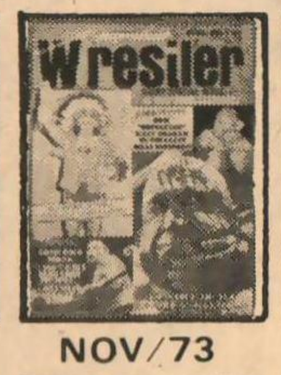
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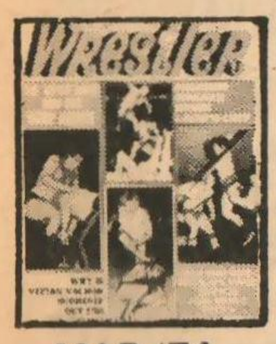
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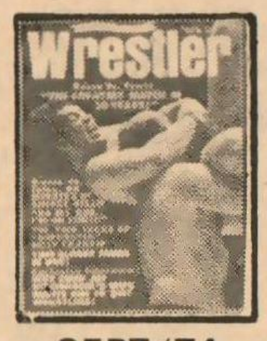
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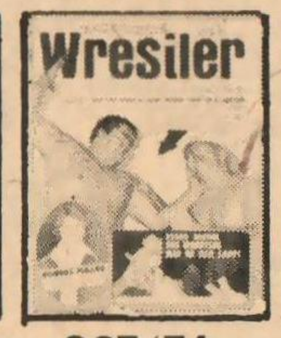
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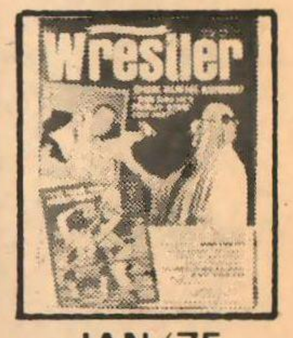
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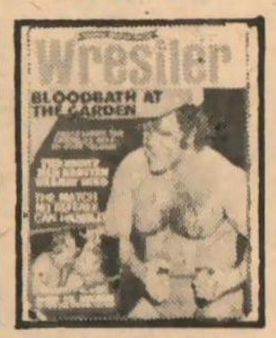
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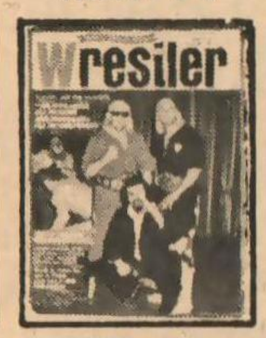
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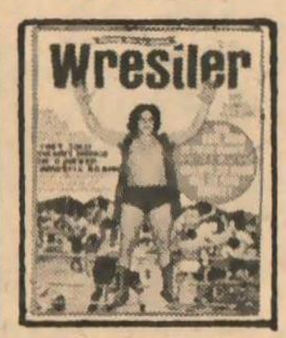
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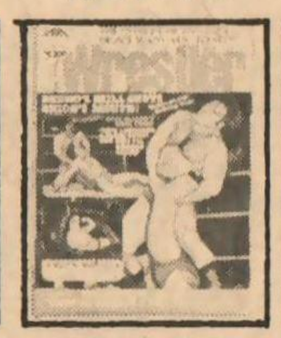
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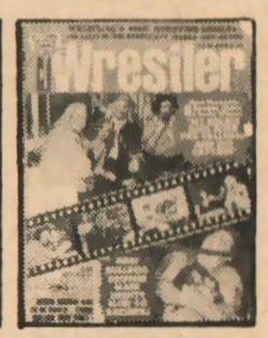
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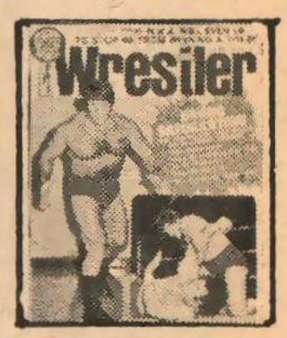
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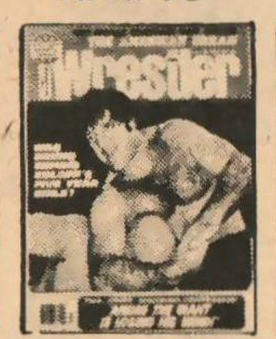
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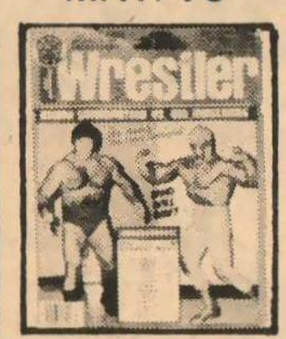
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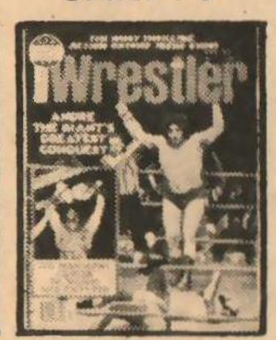
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☐ FEB/72	☐ NOV/73	☐ APR/75	☐ JULY/76
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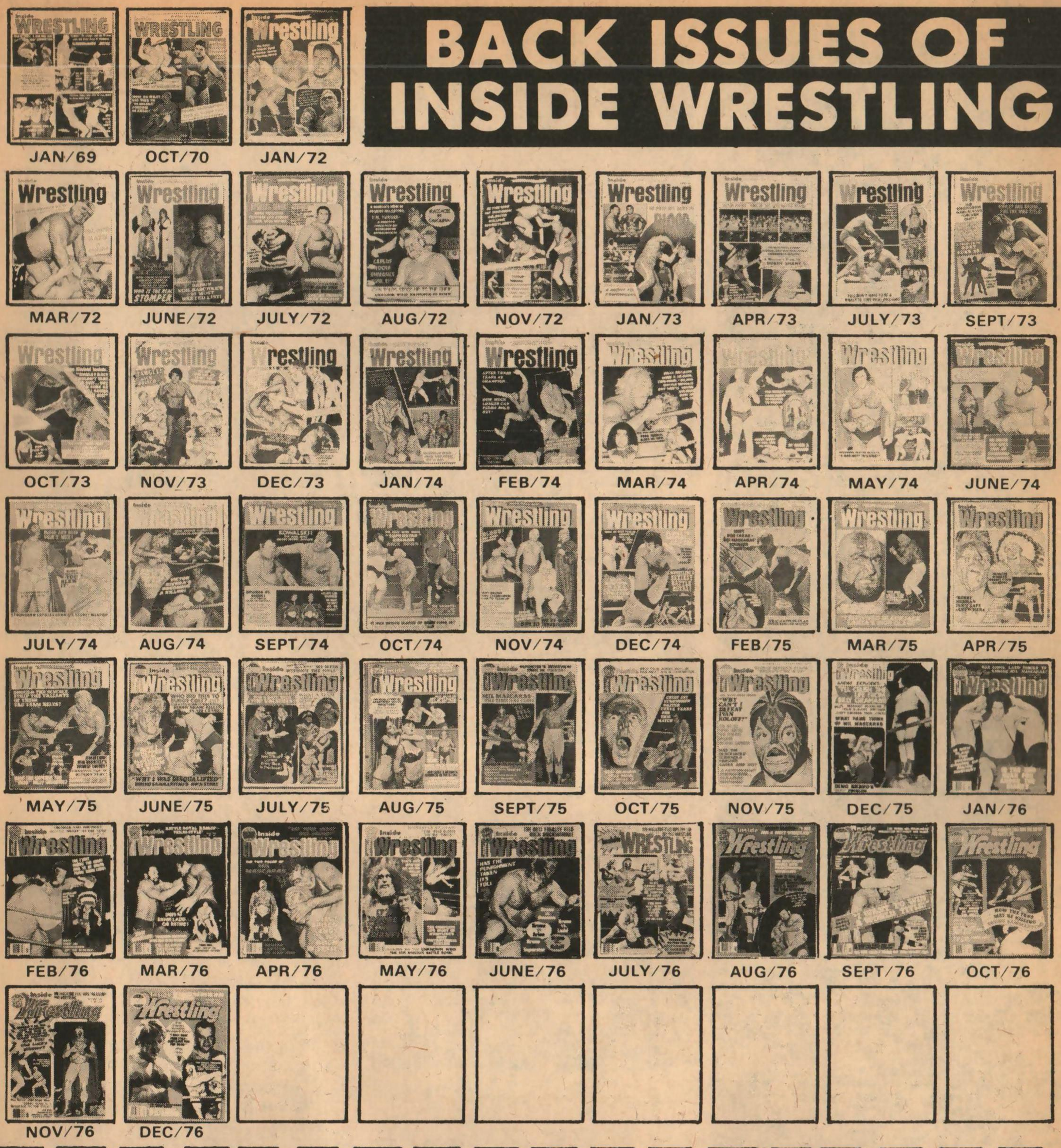

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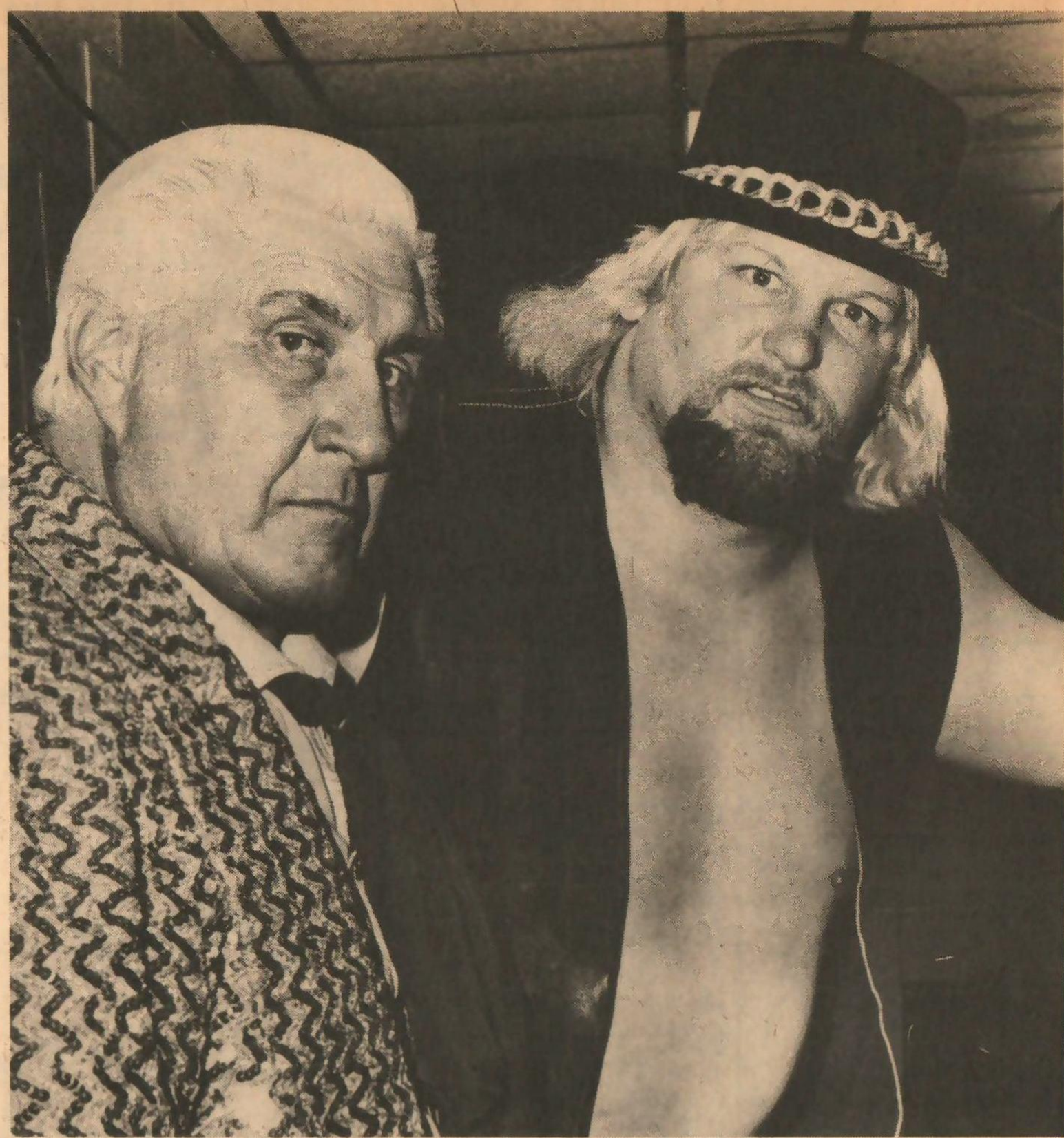

IT WAS A year of confusion, fear and turmoil, a year of unknowns making it big. New champions, mysterious newcomers, and horrifying tragedy marked this year throughout. These were revolutionary times when the old order fell apart and new heroes were called upon to conquer unique tyrants. Only the unexpected was expected.

As the voting showed, the most striking event was the injury and recovery of Bruno Sammartino. Fans used to Bruno's invincibility had to contend with his crippling injury and the fear the WWWF champion's career had been ended. Stan Hansen and his "lariat," a smash to the head with a steel reinforced elbowpad, appeared to be destined for an unimpeded reign of terror.

First Bruno fell to him, suffering a cracked vertebrae, and then Ivan Putski had to be hospitalized. Fear swept through the WWWF and the entire wrestling community. When Bruno came back from his injury, the hopes and prayers of wrestling fans everywhere were with him. There was also great fear at his

(Continued on page 20)

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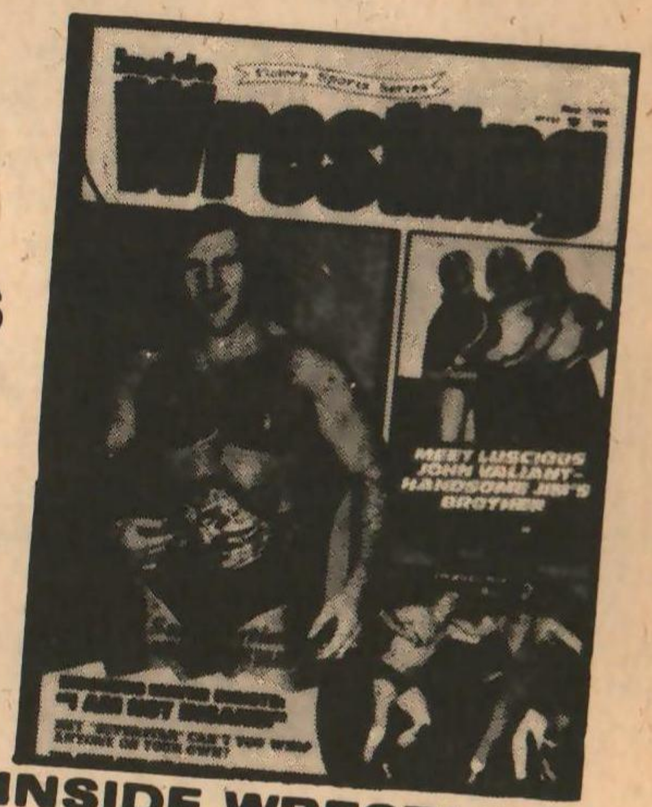

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1976

(Continued from Page 18)

return, for some believed Bruno came back too quickly from the injury and risked permanent disability.

The crowd in New York's Shea Stadium saw Bruno come back gloriously. Stan Hansen never stood a prayer against the raging dynamo. It was a glorious victory for Sammartino and the human spirit.

Still, it was a brutally tough year for the champion and the WWWF as a whole. Bruno's championship reign, once thought indomitable, was repeatedly threatened. Some of the best scientific wrestlers, the WWWF's pride, were severely battered by ruthless rulebreakers. However, it was in the area of tag teams in which the federation suffered most.

The WWWF tag team champions, The Executioners, are masked marauders delighting in torture. They have used cunning, power, and cruelty to dominate the sport. There have been many challengers, many injuries, but no conquerors. It's been a tough adjustment or fans to accept these men as champions. The first masked champions in WWWF history will never be liked by the fans, nor by anyone who likes scientific wrestling.

The AWA and NWA have had to accept even greater shocks. After enjoying the dignified reigns of Verne Gagne and Jack Brisco, both associations have survived the first 12 months of a very different kind of champion. The AWA's Nick Bockwinkle has shown himself to be a cunning rulebreaker, holding onto his title with the illegal help of manager Bobby Heenan. After the superbly honest Verne Gagne, Bockwinkle is a slap in the face to wrestling. It has not bee a joyous bicentennial for AWA fans and grapplers. They've done a lot of cheering in exciting matches, but there's been no celebration.

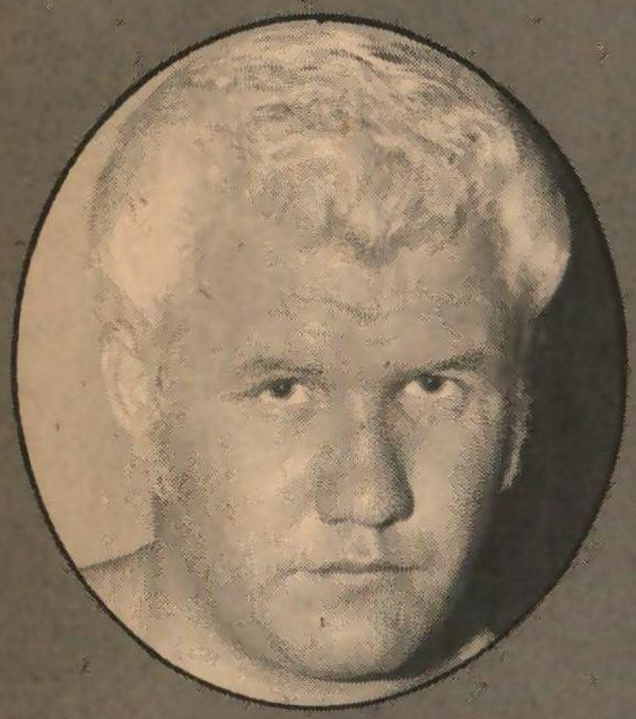
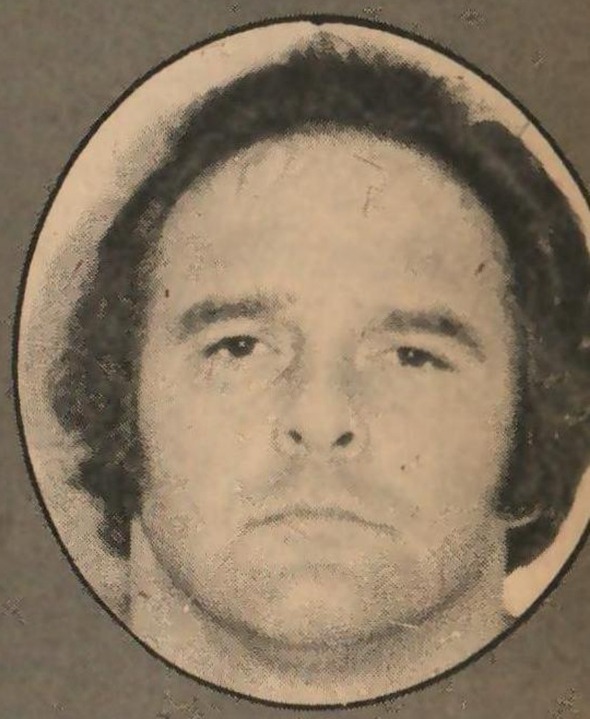
The NWA champion is Terry Funk, voted "Wrestler of the Year" for 1976. One can't be sure of Funk at any one time. He goes from berserk rulebreaker to scientific superstar with confounding ease. He's hated and loved, often by the same person! He's different from any champion before him, a revolution in himself. The sport is awed by his victories and astounded at his statements. It's impossible to figure him out.

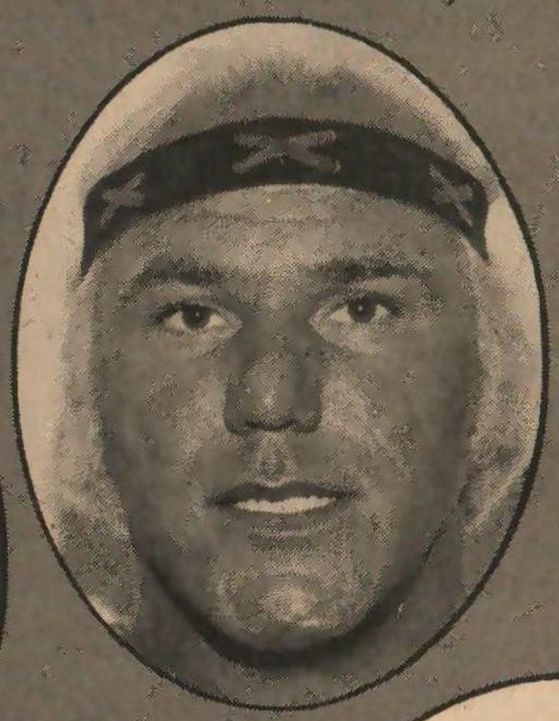
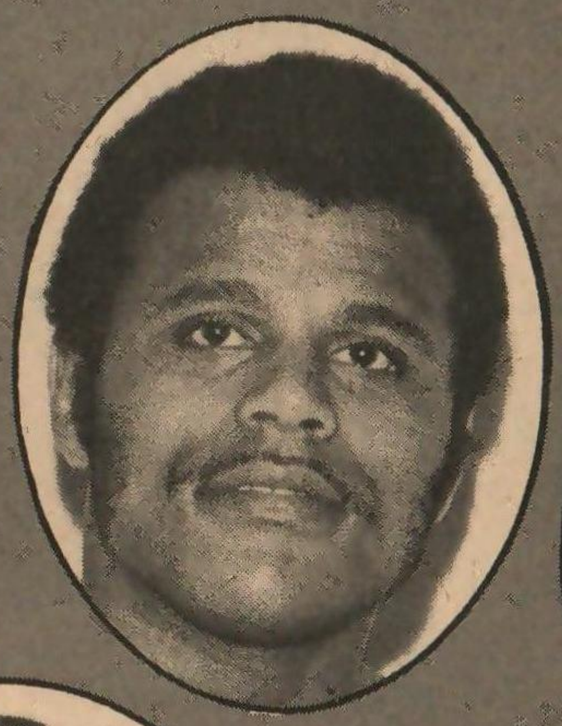
Much of the sport has suffered upheavals of one kind or another. There have been many injuries sustained by top grapplers, forcing some of them to be inactive for months. New names have cropped up with astonishing notoriety. It's become apparent that the superstars of wrestling are being threatened—and in some cases overtaken—by new athletes.

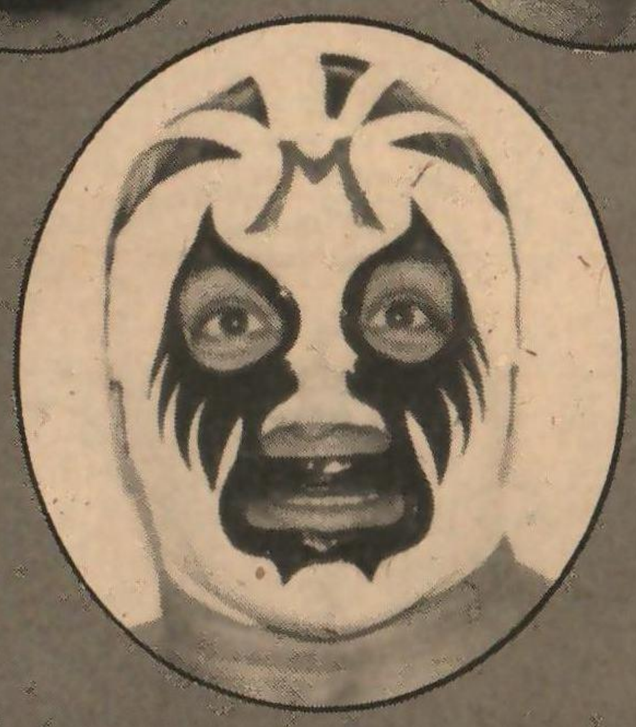
The most remarkable example of this is Bob Backlund, a rookie who manged to become Missouri state champion. This is an unheard of accomplishment for a newcomer, a revolutionary event if ever there was one. It is also a warning to the established veterans not to take the youth lightly. These youngsters are announcing a new order for wrestling. These revolutionaries are demanding recognition or threatening turmoil. They are ambitious, skilled, and hungry. And they are being led by the accomplishments of Bob Backlund, the man named "Rookie of the Year" by the fans.

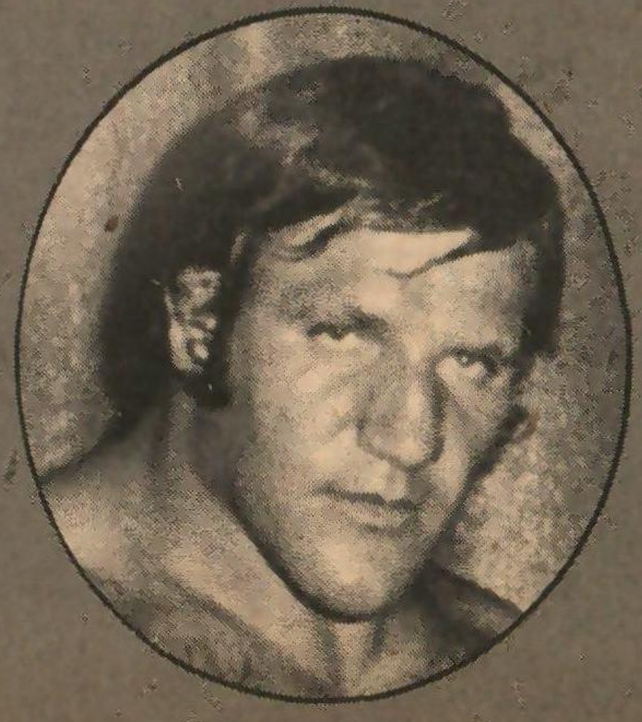
It's going to take years before one can analyze the many different occurrences of 1976. However, it doesn't take a seer to see effects of the year's events will be felt for many years to come. □

YOUR 1977 WRESTLING CALENDAR





MARK LEWIN — **January**

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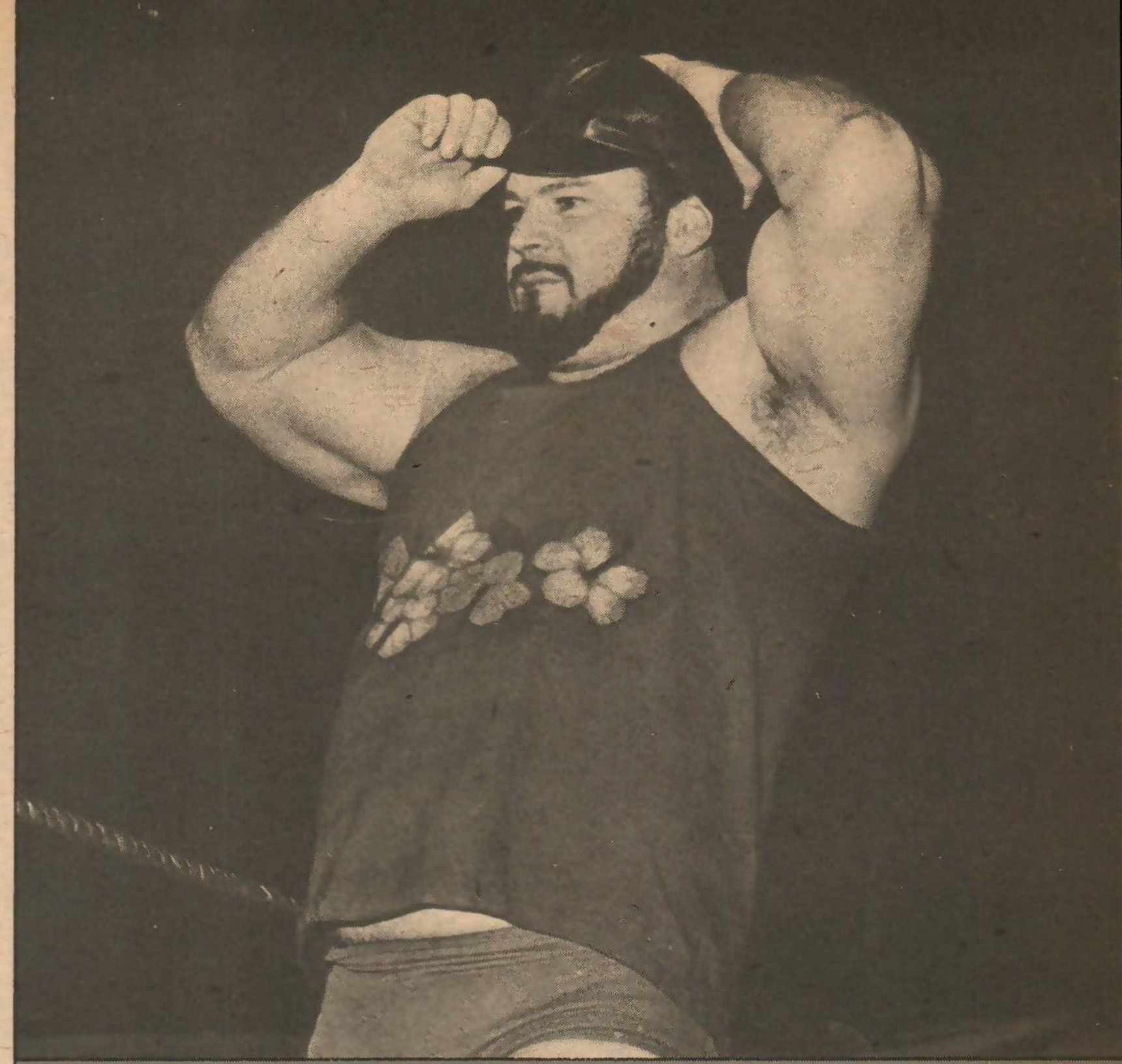

IVAN PUTSKI — **February**

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28						

THE ROYAL KANGAROOS — **March**

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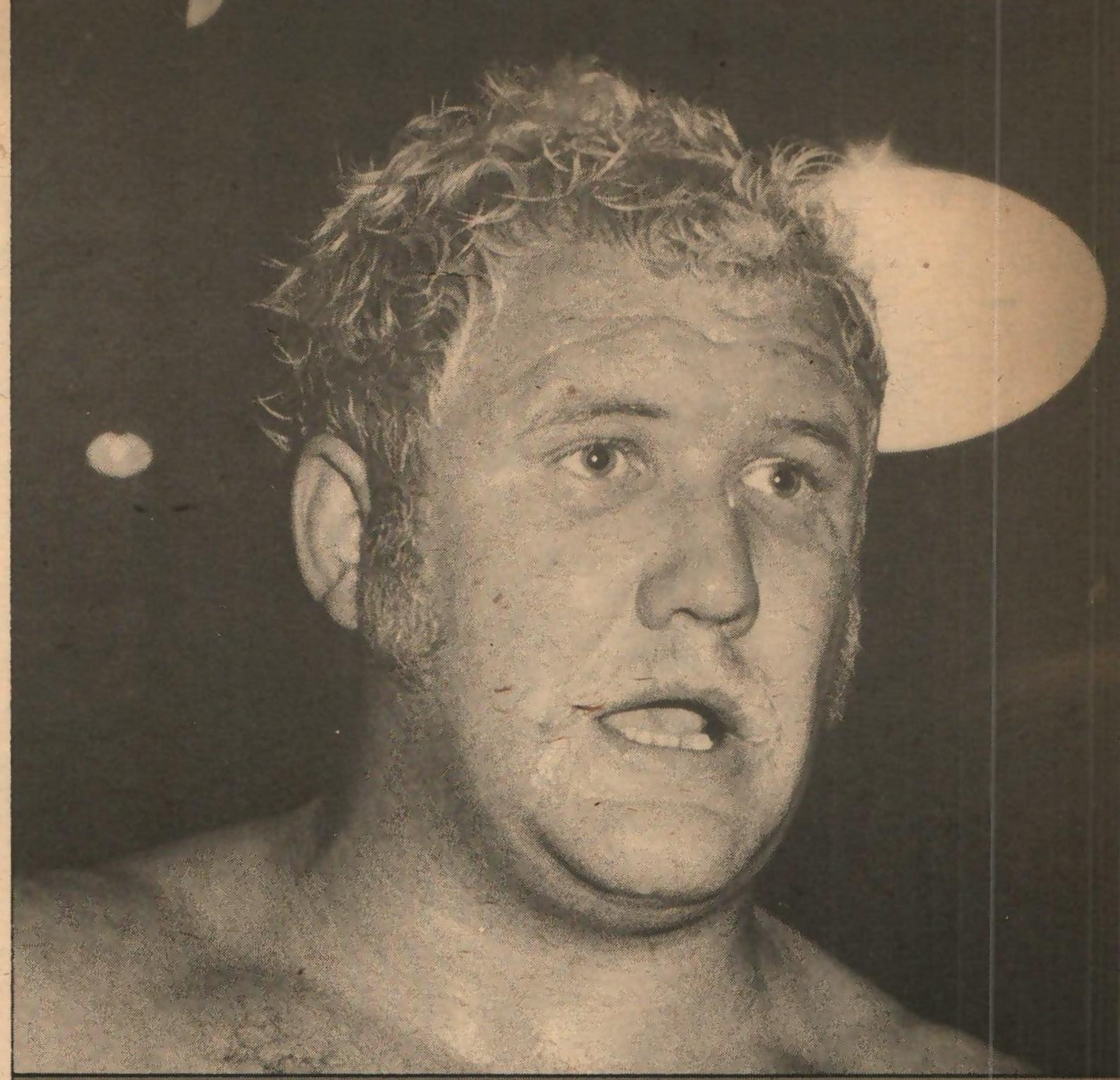

HARLEY RACE — **April**

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LOU ALBANO — **May**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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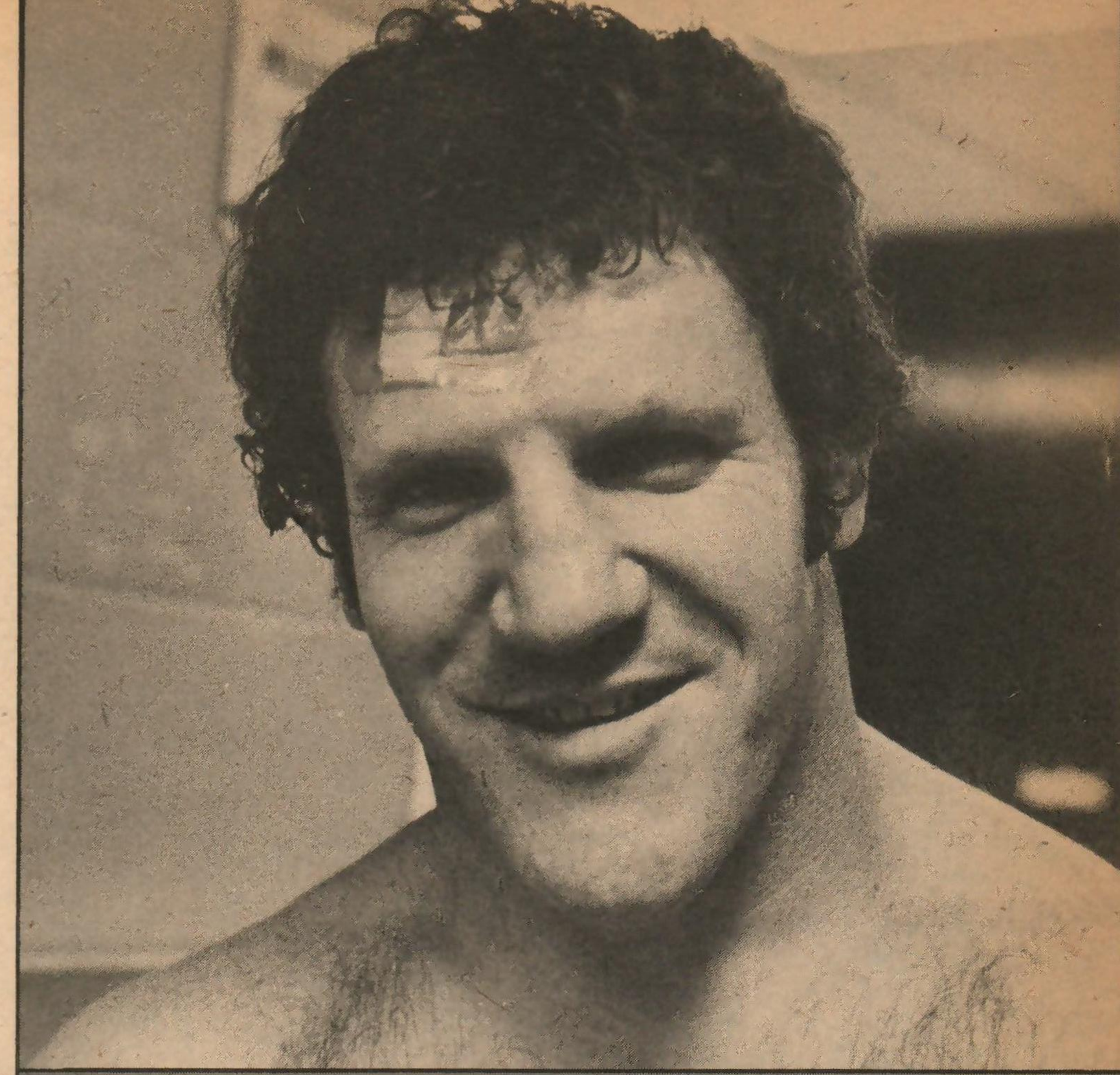
30	31					



BRUNO SAMMARTINO — **June**

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27	28	29	30			

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM — **July**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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BOB ORTON JR. — **August**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MR. WRESTLING II — **September**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MIL MASCARAS — **October**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

TERRY FUNK AND DORY FUNK JR. — **November**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

ROCKY JOHNSON — **December**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

The Executioners

EXECUTIONERS	42%
ANDERSON BROTHERS	20%
STRONGBOW & WHITE	
WOLF	11%
VALIANT BROTHERS	8%
OTHERS	19%

FROM THE FIRST day of voting, there was no doubt which tag team would walk away with top honors. This year has certainly been the year of The Executioners.

The most mysterious tag team champions in WWWF history, Executioner #1 and #2 seemed to spring from nowhere and go straight to the title. Under the management of Lou Albano, this notorious duo used every dirty trick in the book to wreak havoc throughout the federation. Many tag teams tried to wrest the title from them, only to wind up battered and broken. Whoever they are behind those masks, they are hated by everyone who respects wrestling's integrity.

The question of their identity has dominated the thoughts of fans all over the world. At least 100 wrestlers, top veterans, have been named as The Executioners. Albano's claim that they're rookies is laughed at by all knowledgeable observers. The Executioners must have been around for years learning illegal maneuvers. Though many top grapplers have tried to unmask the pair, so far it hasn't been done. Many people claim to

(Continued on page 50)

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

WHEN A MANAGER owns all the titles in an association, there can't be much doubt he's "Manager of the Year." It was no surprise Bobby Heenan was the overwhelming favorite, though "favorite" may be the wrong word to apply to this hated individual.

We have never seen so many angry comments attached to ballots as were directed at Heenan. They were enraged about his domination of both the single and tag team AWA titles. Heenan is also feared. His ambition knows no bounds. One wonders what he'll do next yet hopes never to learn.

"Heenan is a rat!" one fan, who wishes to remain anonymous, believes. "He's the lowest person in wrestling. All he does is interfere, get titles for his rulebreakers, and spit on the sport. I have to vote for him, but I hope next year to vote someone I can like. Maybe next year Heenan won't even be in the running!"

Most fans said things similar. Some were a bit stronger. Heenan has managed to infuriate everyone who's ever seen or read about him. His AWA champion, Nick Bockwinkle, manages to defeat every challenger who confronts him. Though there has been much written about antagonism between champion and manager, the two men still stay together and rule the AWA. As for the tag team title, Blackjack Lanza and Bobby Duncum terrorize AWA tag teams with ruthless cheating and savage brawls.

Of course, Heenan is not alone when it comes to owning a stable of cheaters. A man who is always prominent in the category, and in insults hurled at managers, is Lou Albano. This year, Albano won the undying hatred of fans for managing The Executioners, perhaps the most

Bobby Heenan

BOBBY HEENAN	64%
LOU ALBANO	12%
FREDDIE BLASSIE	9%
GARY HART	6%
OTHERS	9%

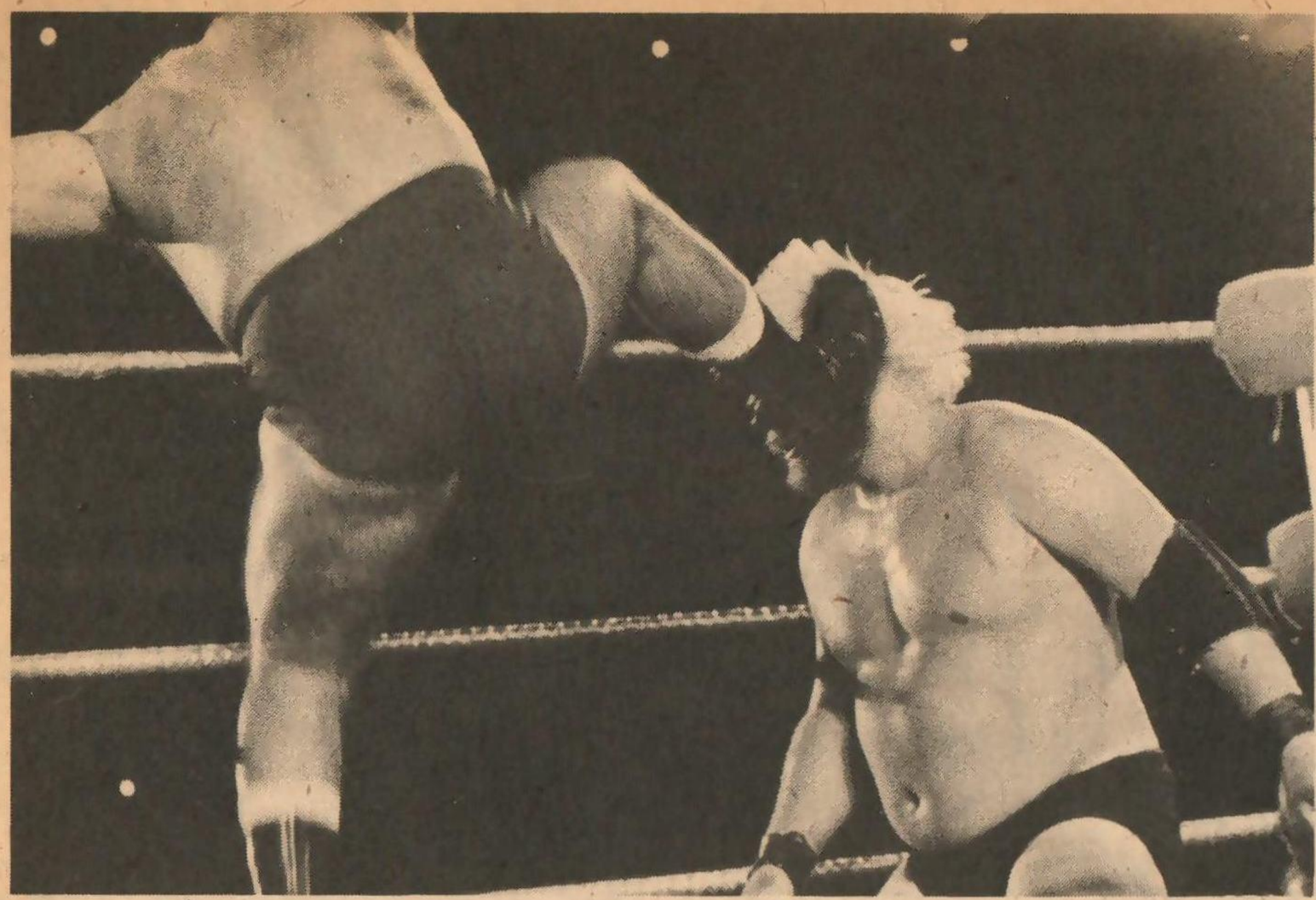
despised duo in wrestling. Albano proclaims himself the guiding intelligence behind this pair, a claim guaranteed to infuriate anyone who loves wrestling.

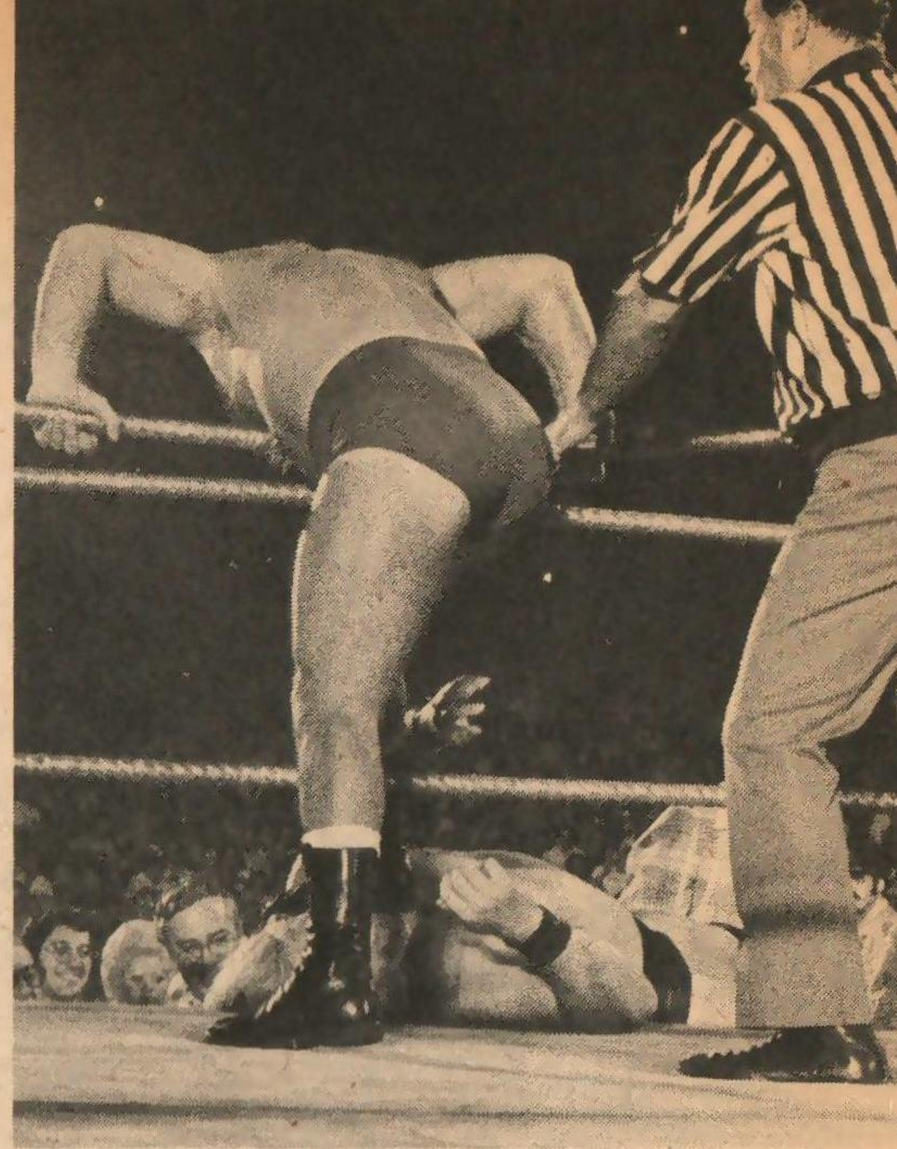
Freddie Blassie was responsible for Stan Hansen, which was responsible for fans voting for him with pens dipped in acid. No one has ever returned from the place most fans wished Blassie would go. Once again, the comments were best left out of a family magazine.

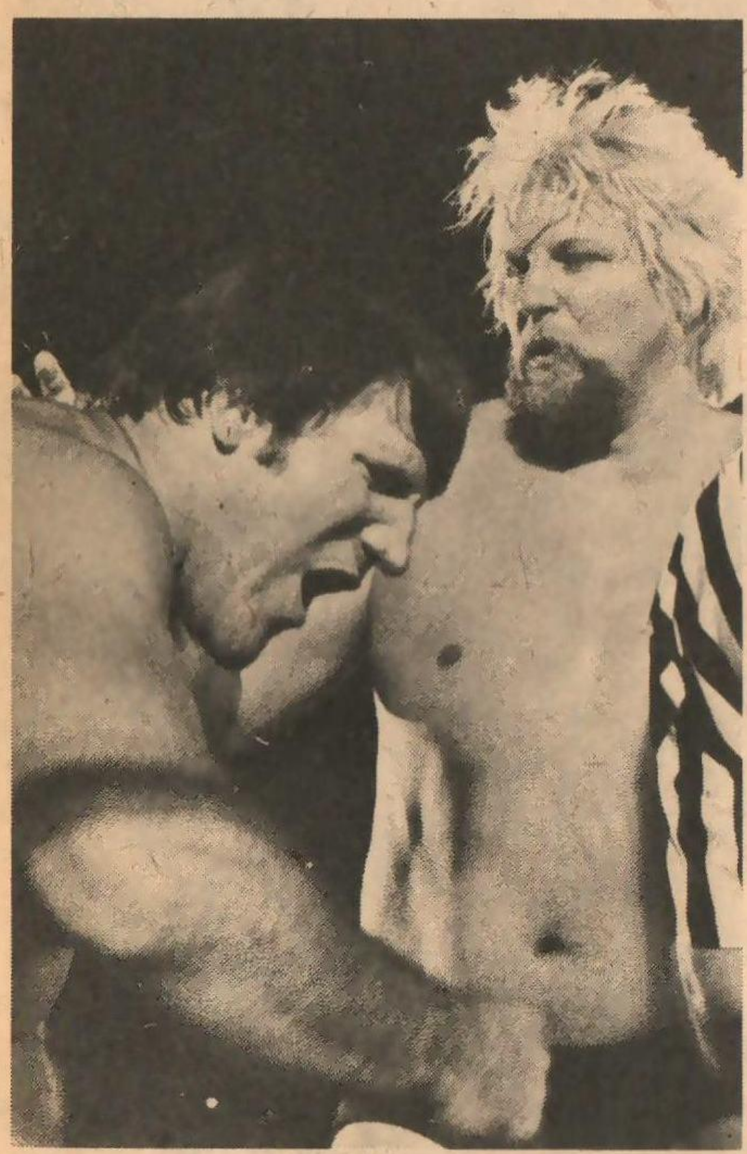
Gary Hart is a man in transition. His fourth position reflects this. Traveling from the southeast to Texas, Hart has seemingly abandoned his stable of rulebreakers and taken up with the respected Jose Lothario. No one is quite sure what Hart is planning. He's the

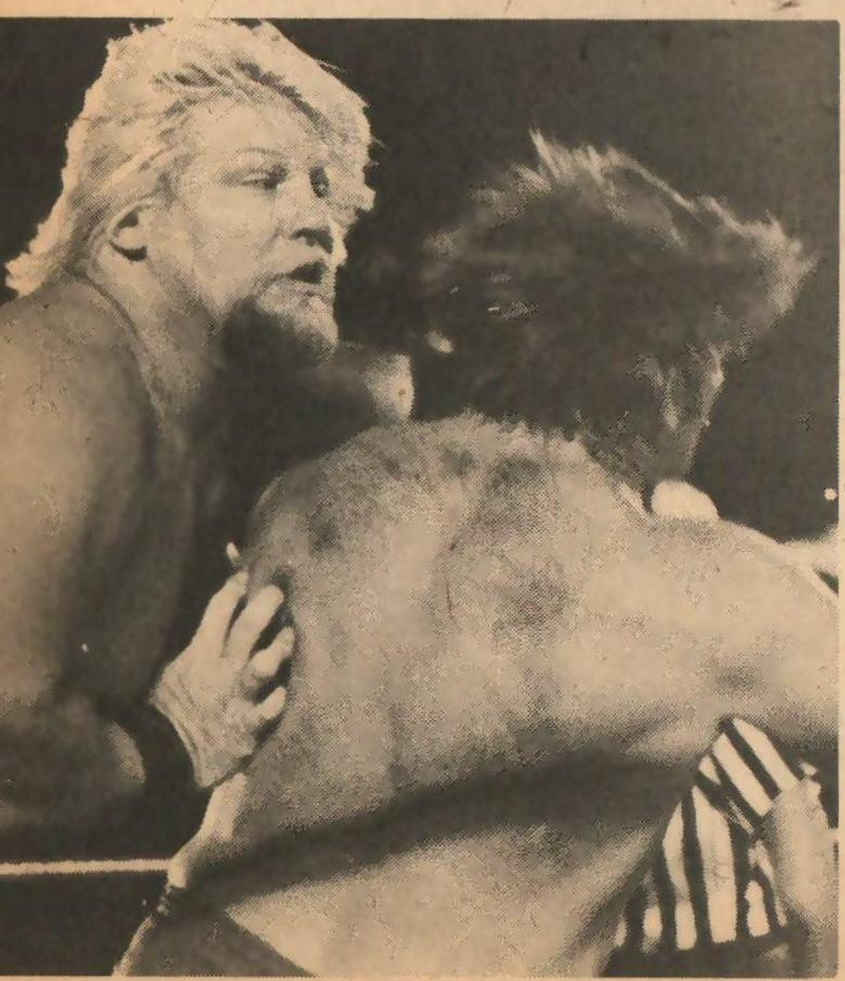
(Continued on page 51)

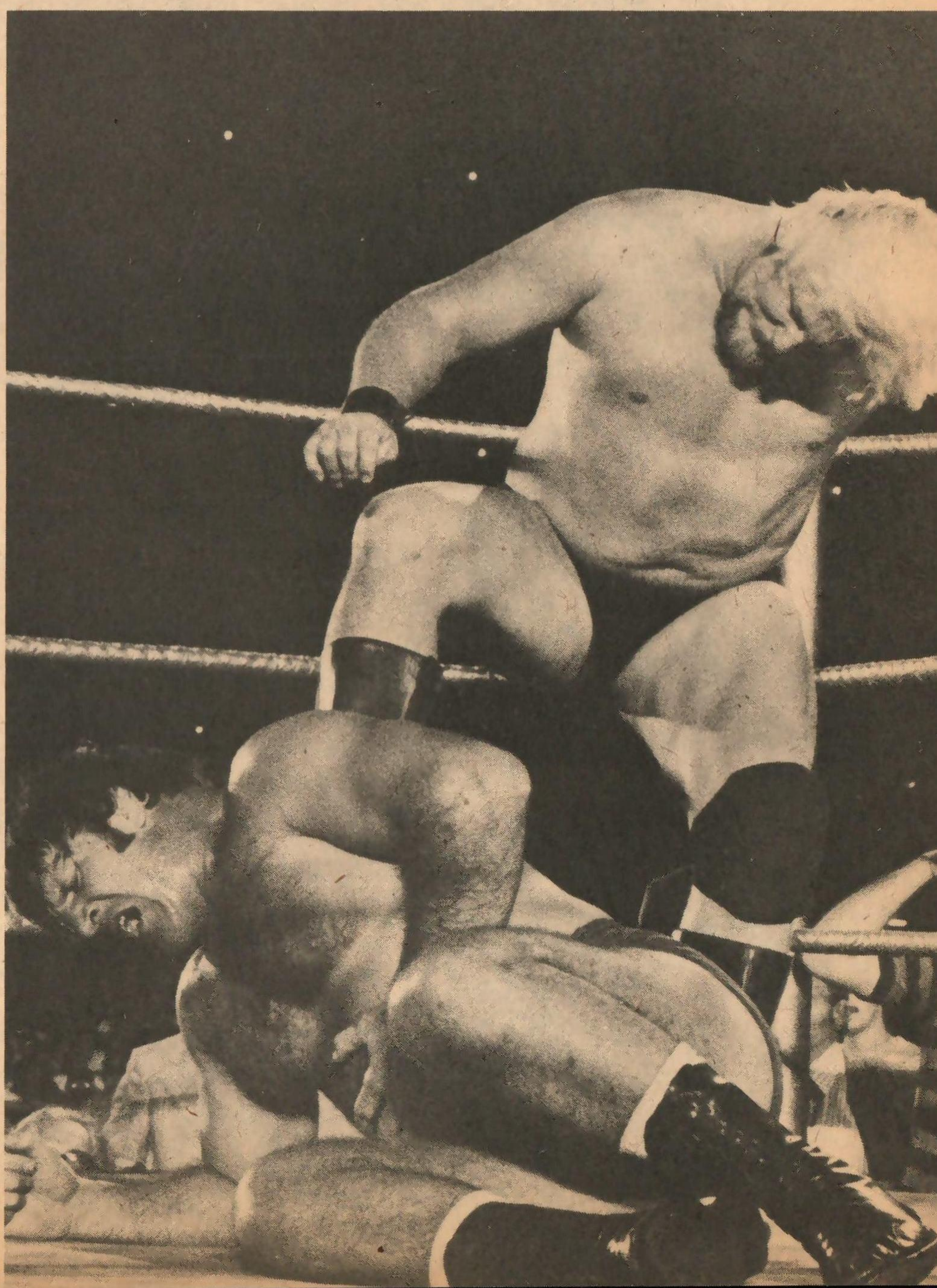
MANAGER OF THE YEAR











Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen

SAMMARTINO VS. HANSEN	35%
FUNK VS. JOHNSON	26%
BOCKWINKLE VS. VON RASCHKE	11%
ANDRE VS. ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER	9%
OTHERS	19%

FOR MANY PEOPLE, there was only one match this year: Bruno Sammartino's conquest of Stan Han Hansen at Shea Stadium on June 25 1976. They believed it to be the most exciting, wondrous event in wrestling history.

"For as long as I live," Dave Schreiber, of Hartsdale, New York, wrote, "I'll be able to tell people I was at the greatest athletic event in history. I didn't really think Bruno would be able to come back from the back injury inflicted months earlier by Hansen and his 'lariat.' I was afraid to go to the bout, in fact, because seeing Bruno carried off on a stretcher would be more than I could take. However, a friend convinced me to go.

"In the opening moments of the match, I knew my fears were groundless. Bruno was magnificent, a whirlwind of wrestling fury. Hansen never stood a chance, nor did he deserve one. It was the greatest revenge I've ever seen. I cheered myself hoarse. I've seen Bruno many times. He was never better than on this night."

Many other fans agreed. They made this the top match of the year by a convincing plurality.

The second most popular match of 1976 took place between Terry Funk and Rocky Johnson. A superb exhibition that ended in controversy (many caiming Funk bribed the timekeeper to shorten the bout), this match had everything a top match should: action, courage, and determination.

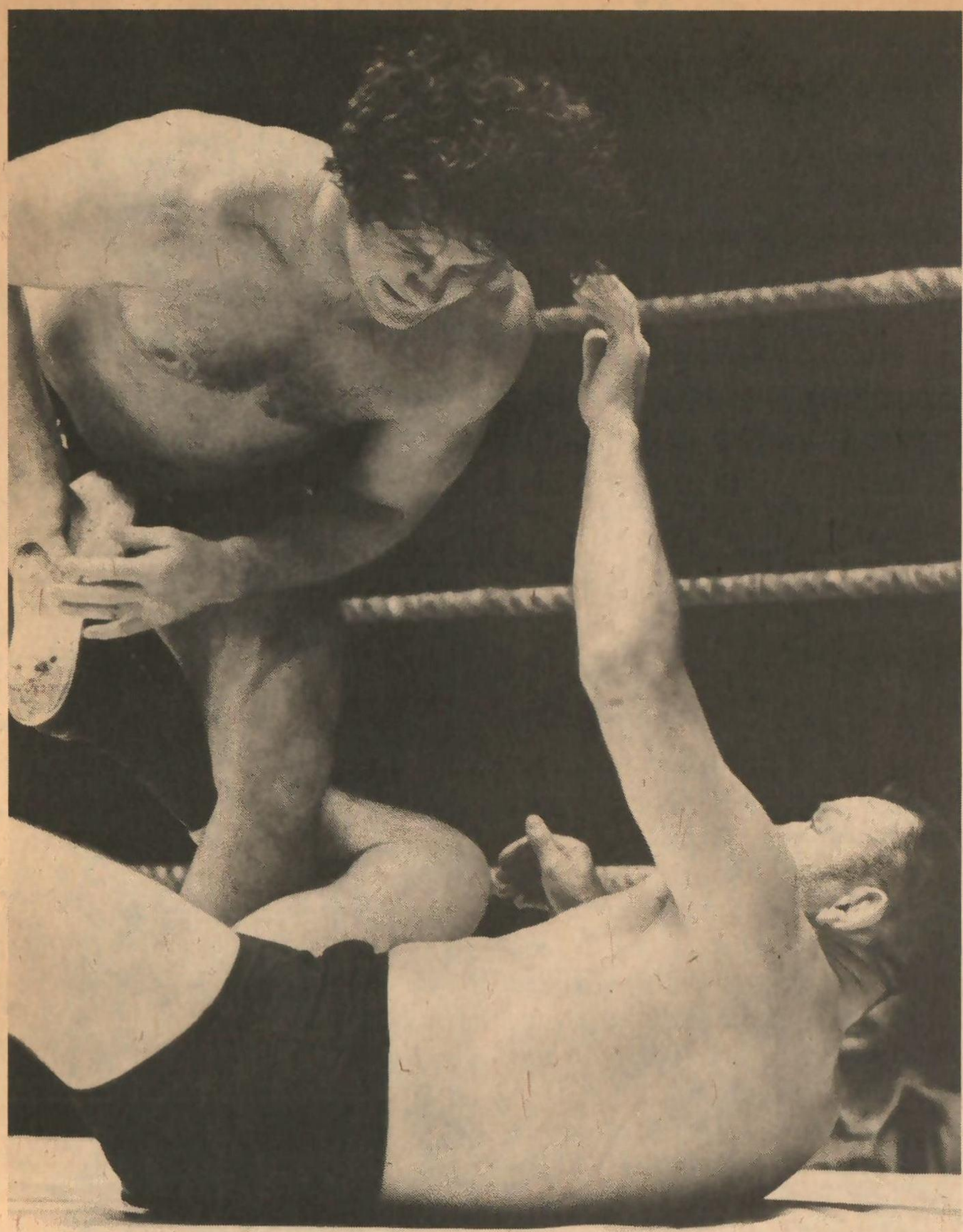
Funk's various title matches, in fact, accounted for 37% of the voting. It shows what an exciting champion Funk has become that nine different opponents were named with him for match of the year. That's a sign of widespread excellence and one Funk can point to with pride.

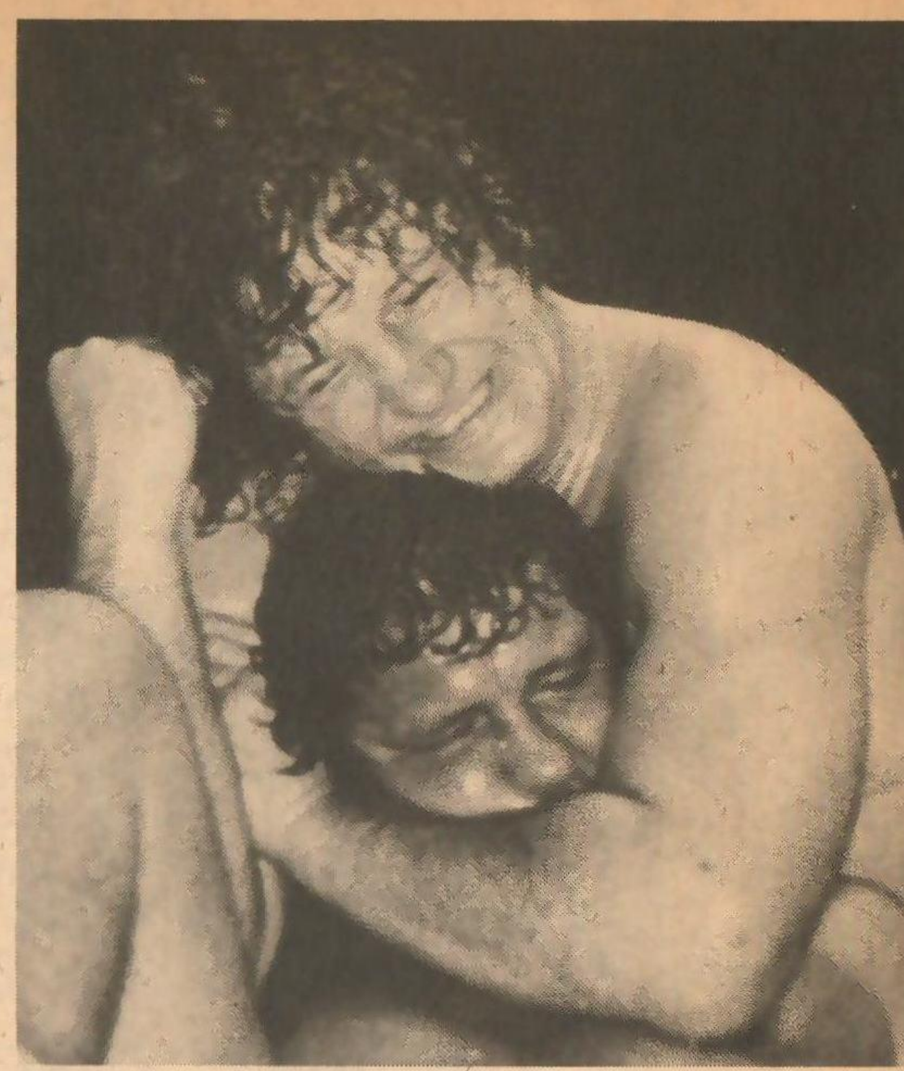
Nick Bockwinkle's AWA title defense against Baron Von Raschke also received a sizeable amount of votes. This brawl, pitting the two former friends against each other, may have the most telling effect on wrestling's future. Many believe Bockwinkle's manager, Boby Heenan, set up the champion for a massacre. Nick has some real worries in that area himself. If Heenan and Bockwinkle are ever at each other's throats, this may be the match that started it all.

Many voters cast their ballot

(Continued on page 52)

MATCH OF THE YEAR

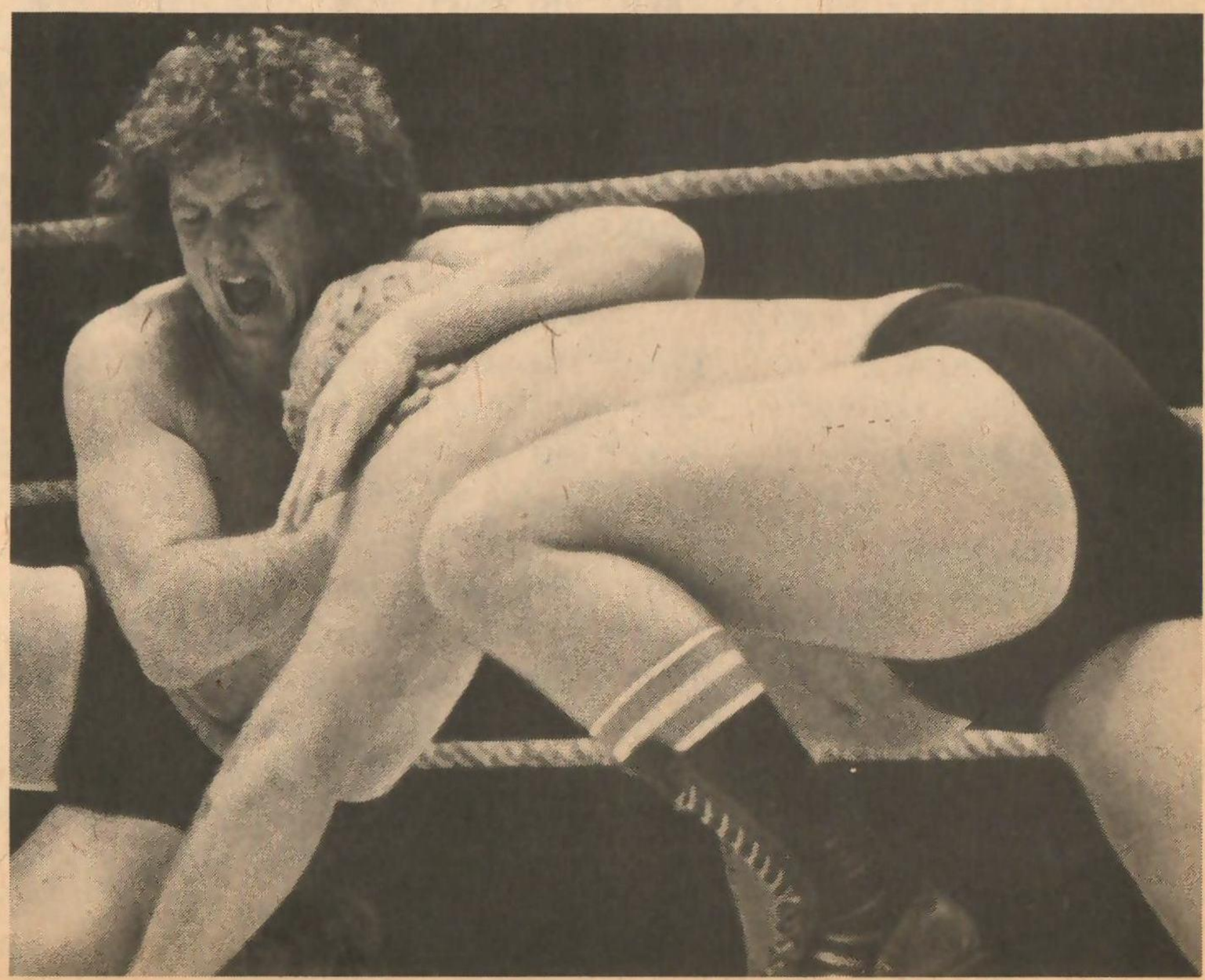




THE MOST HONORED, prestigious award in wrestling is "Wrestler of the Year." This year it goes to a man considered by many to be the most controversial champion in history, Terry Funk.

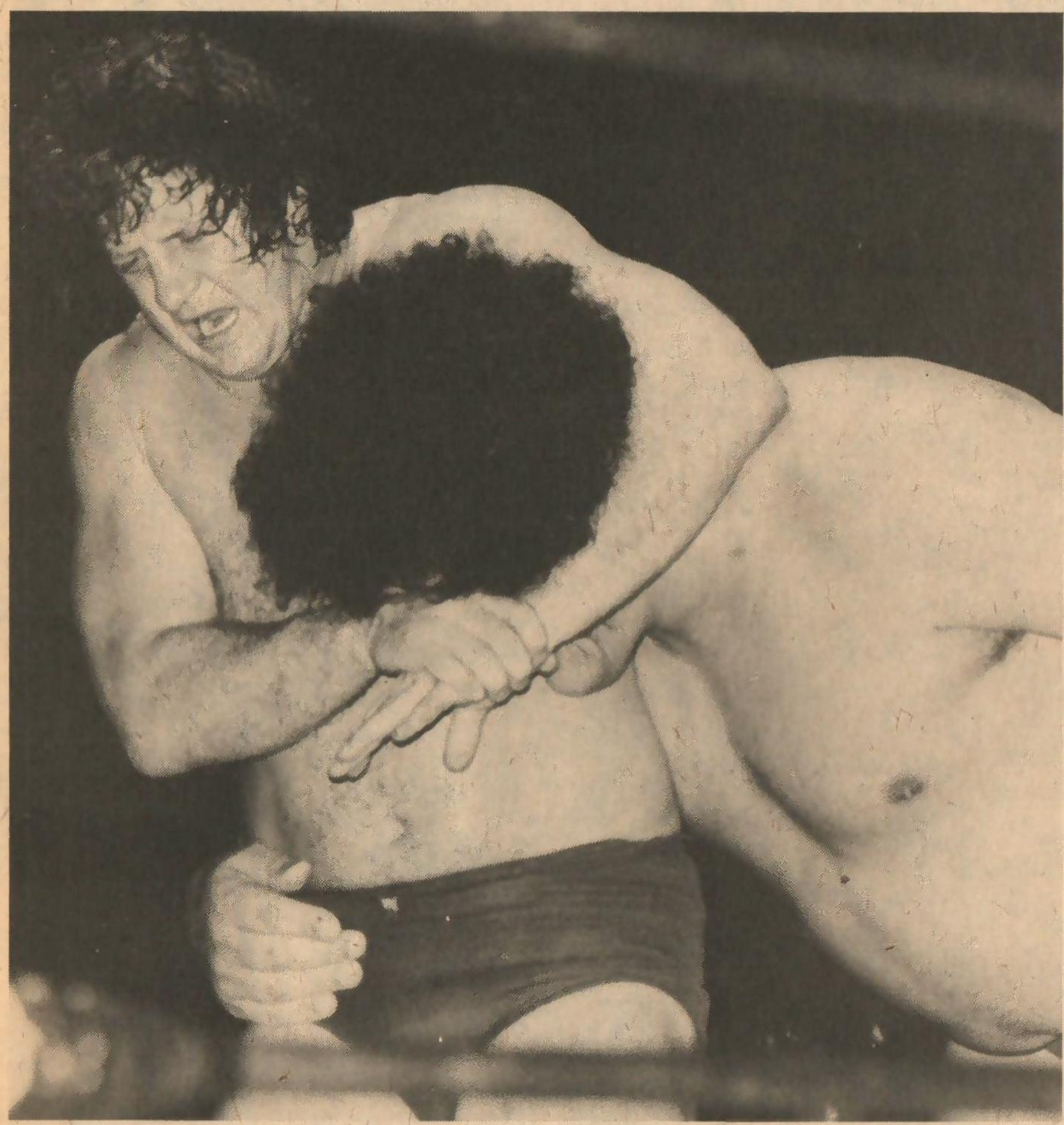
No one in wrestling really knows Terry. No one can figure out what makes him tick. At times, one will dismiss him as a rulebreaker who holds on to a title through trickery and cruelty. Then Funk will take on an opponent using scientific tactics, executing maneuvers with a skill unequalled by any in the sport. He confounds critics whle puzzling fans.

There is no doubting Terry's love of brawling. All his bouts



Terry Funk

TERRY FUNK	24%
BRUNO SAMMARTINO	21%
NICK BOCKWINKLE	21%
PAUL JONES	18%
OTHERS	16%



are recklessly exciting. Owning the title may have calmed him down a little, but not much. He's still riotous when necessary, necessity being when Terry feels like it. Few wrestlers in history love a free-for-all like Terry does.

There was a virtual tie for second place between the AWA champion, Nick Bockwinkle, and WWF champion, Bruno Sammartino. Both men deserve recognition for their accomplishments over the past year, though for very different reasons. Bruno overcame injuries and conspiracies to restore honor to his title and legend. Bockwinkle kept his title against top AWA challengers, but he employed the aid of his manager, Bobby Heenan. Nick's reign is the most controversial in AWA history.

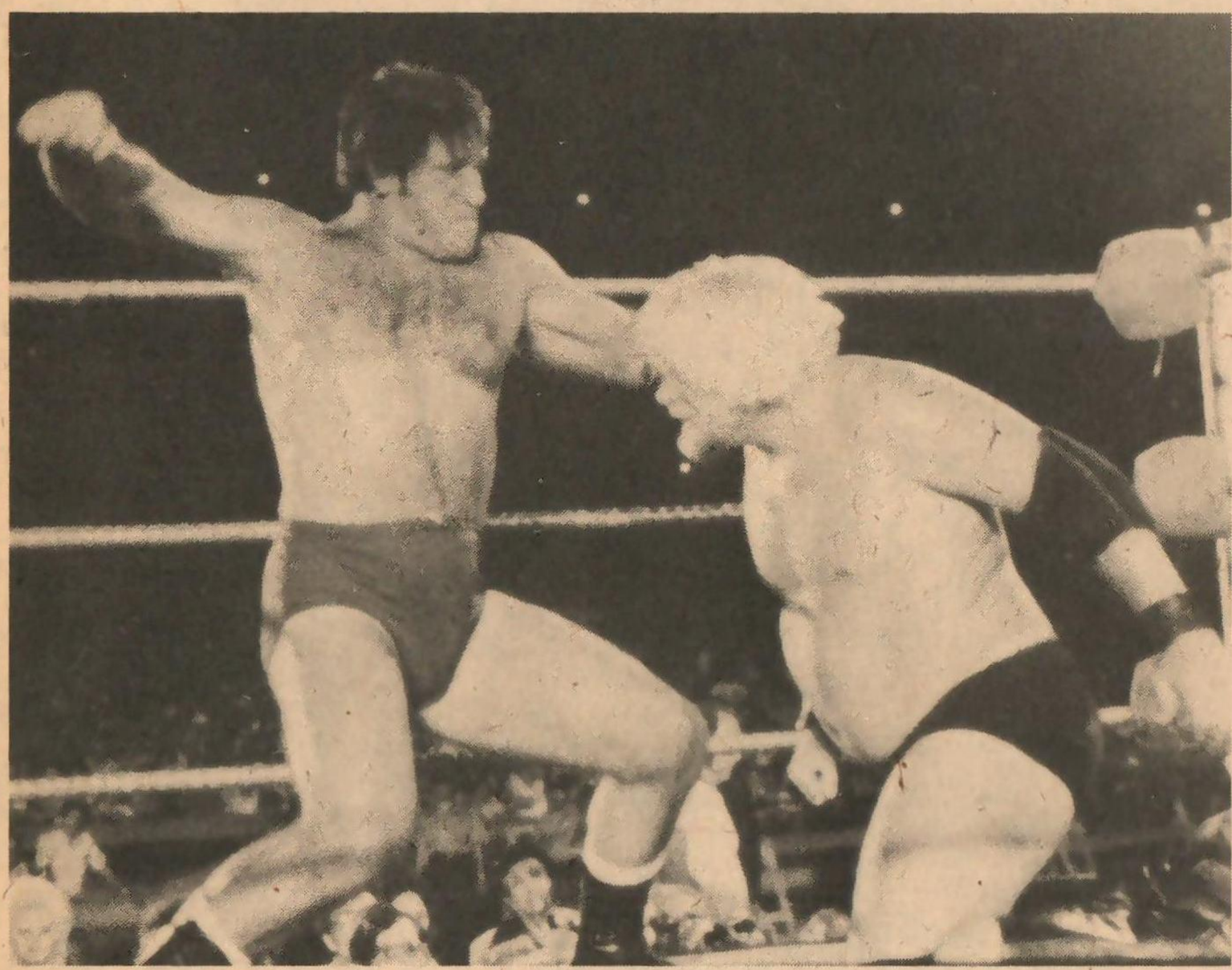
In the South, no man is more respected than Paul Jones. He received many votes. Often, comments accompanying the ballots mentioned his integrity and courage, praising his skill and friendliness to the fans. If he can manage to take the mid-Atlantic title from Blackjack Mulligan in 1977, you can be

(Continued on page 54)

MAN OF THE YEAR

Bruno Sammartino

BRUNO SAMMARTINO	48%
WAHOO McDANIEL	29%
BOB ROOP	12%
BOB ARMSTRONG	7%
OTHERS	4%



INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

FROM THE VERY first hour we opened the ballots, it was clear Bruno Sammartino would be "Inspirational Wrestler of the Year." Only the amount by which he would win was in doubt.

There's no question as to why Bruno won the award. The vertebrae in his neck was cracked after being victimized by Stan Hansen's "lariat." Hospitalized, it was feared Sammartino's career was over. Only indomitable courage could turn tragedy into success. A few of the doctors despaired the situation was hopeless, even with all the courage in the world.

Yet, earlier than most people thought possible, Sammartino challenged Hansen to meet him in Shea Stadium. Fans were delighted Bruno had returned, but they were scared he was rushing back before being ready. Even Sammartino might have been worried at his gamble.

Yet, from the first moment, Bruno exploded into a fury of wrestling brilliance. Better than anyone could imagine possible, he devasted Hansen from the opening moment. It's no wonder this classic confrontation was named "Match of the Year."

From crippled to undisputed champion in a few short weeks, Bruno Sammartino proved the power of the human spirit can conquer any injury. It's a lesson the world never tires of learning. Bruno's victory makes us all a little better human beings.

A man equally brave is Wahoo McDaniel. After being pounded by a press table wielded by Ric Flair, Wahoo was also taken to the hospital. Many believed his

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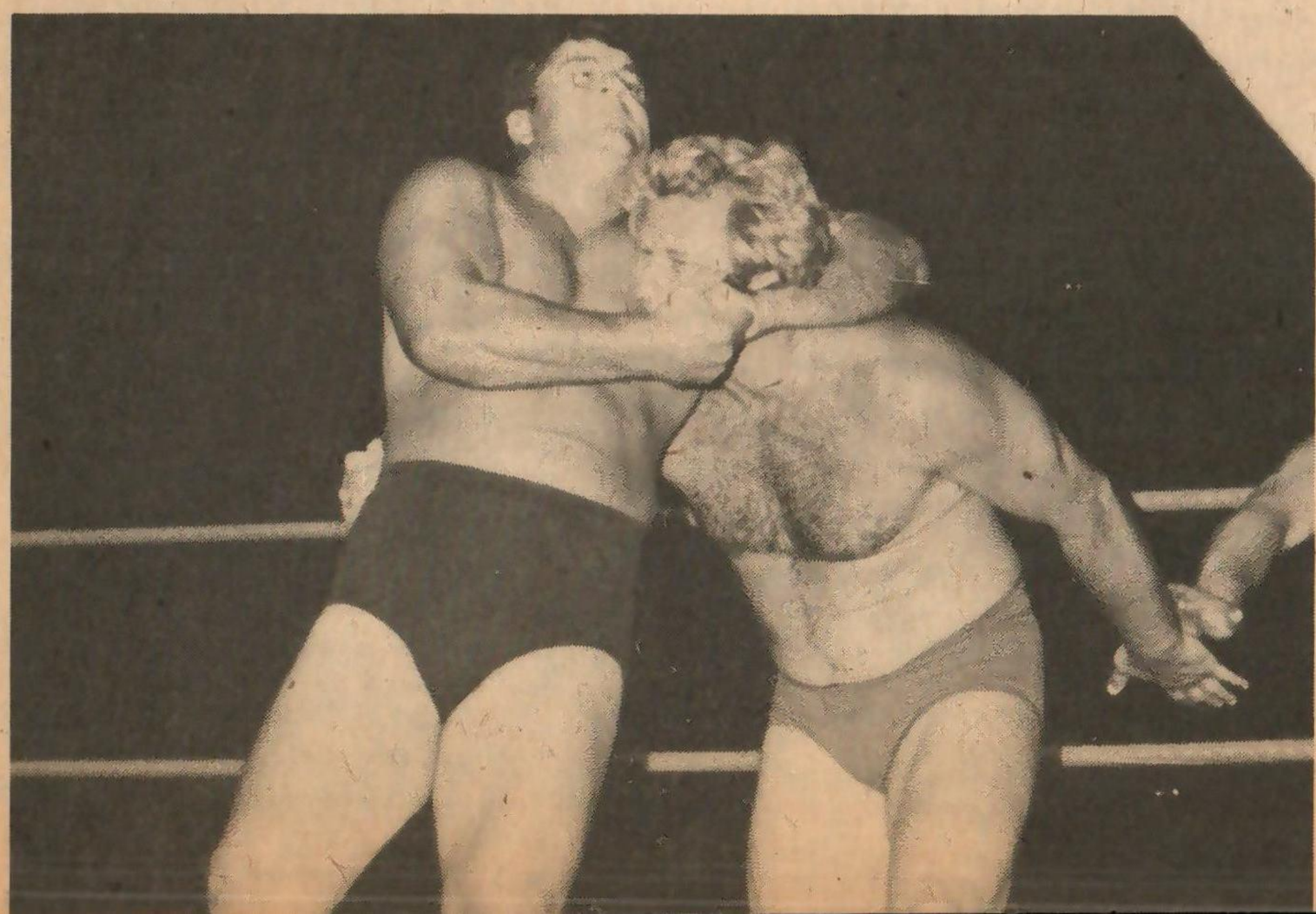


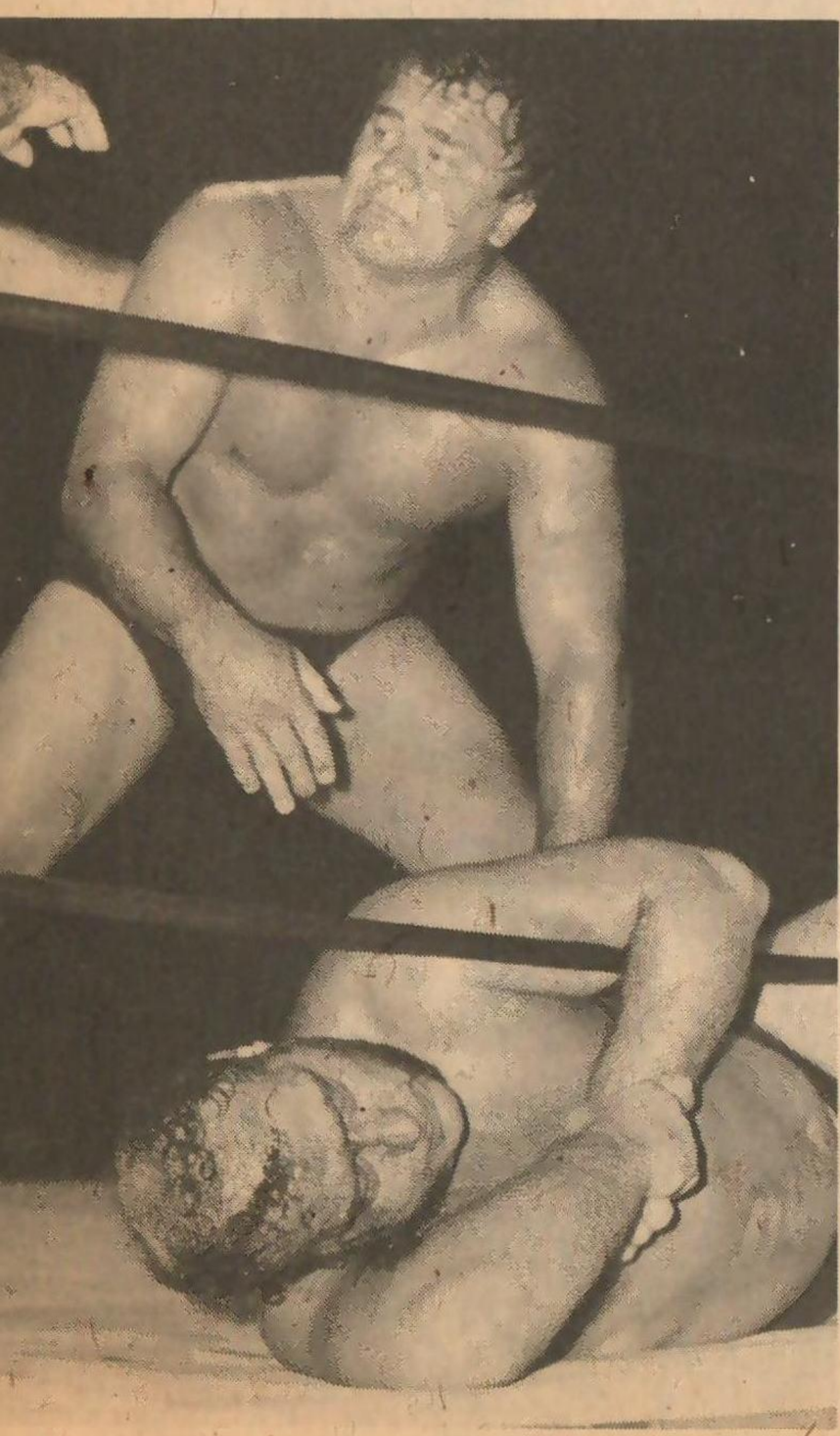
THERE WERE MORE names submitted in this category than in any other. Many wrestlers are popular, beloved, and admired. Choosing one above all was difficult for most fans. The wide variety of names underlines this.

The winner by a surprising majority for such a small percentage of votes is Wahoo McDaniel, a man whose popularity has been great for year. It's been a hectic year for Wahoo, pounding away in grudge matches and being

Wahoo McDaniel

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

WAHOO McDANIEL	18%
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW	14%
MR WRESTLING II	12%
IVAN PUTSKI	11%
OTHERS	45%



hospitalized by Ric Flair. Some thought his career was over after that injury. This award is the fans' way of saying, "Welcome back!"

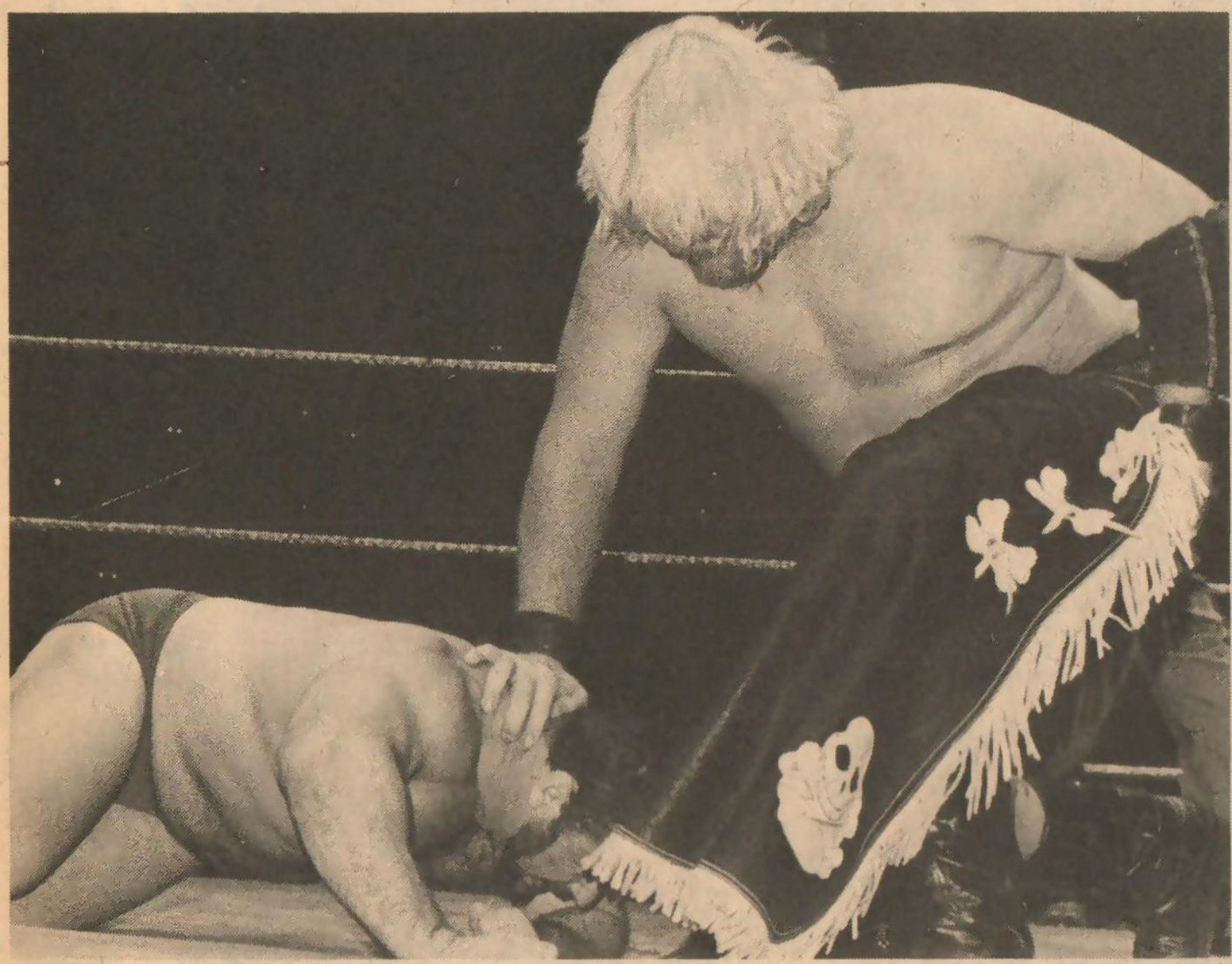
McDaniel has had a long and honorable career in athletics. Wahoo gave up football stardom for an opportunity to become a professional wrestler. From the beginning, he captured the admiration of fans wherever he wrestled. Chief Wahoo McDaniel's headdress and Indian garb are welcome sights in any arena. His Indian heritage, proudly proclaimed, makes his every match a demand for his people's dignity. McDaniel is an extraordinary human being as well as a great wrestler.

Interestingly enough, Indians made the top two in popularity.

(Continued on page 58)

Stan Hansen

STAN HANSEN	19%
OX BAKER	17%
TERRY FUNK	12%
SPOILER	9%
OTHERS	43%



WITH SO MANY to choose from, it is no wonder the voting for "Villain of the Year" was so widespread and varied. The winner, Stan Hansen, received less than 20 percent of the vote.

Hansen easily won when it came to fans' comments: those directed at him were the most hateful we've ever seen. All hoped Hansen would wind up lying in a hospital bed, the punishment Stan inflicted on Bruno Sammartino.

"If the commissions won't ban Hansen," Katherine Roberts, of Plainville, Vt., wrote, "then I hope some wrestler cripples him for good. He's a blight on wrestling, destroying the noble athletes. What he did to Bruno Sammartino, illegally, is enough for me to know he's the worst around. Damn his soul to fiery hell!"

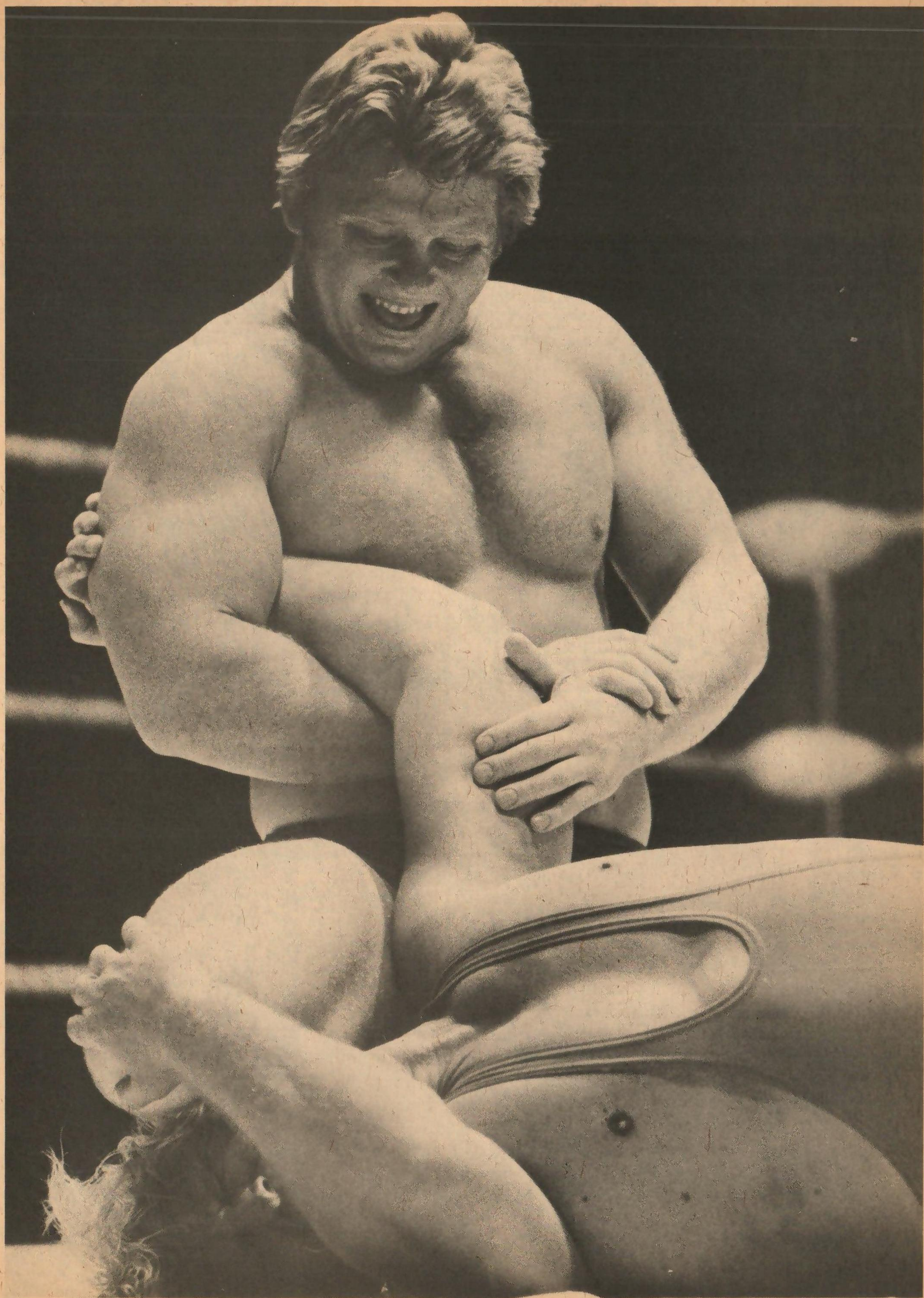
Most of the ballots on Hansen came with similar comments, some unfit for this magazine. Not only for breaking Sammartino's neck is Hansen criticized. His many tactics against other men earned the outrage. However, almost everyone agreed not only Hansen should be banned, but also the lariat, Hansen's crippling move. While everything about Stan is despised, the lariat makes fans uncontrollably furious. If the fans have their way, Hansen will never be able to wear an elbowpad into an arena again.

When Hansen heard of his being named "Villain of the Year," he laughed for five minutes.

"It's just like the cretins,"

(Continued on page 60)

VILLAIN OF THE YEAR



Bob Backlund

BOB BACKLUND	35%
CHAVO GUERRERO	34%
STEVE KEIRN	13%
JOHNNY RIVERA	5%
OTHERS	13%

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

THE FUTURE IS bright for professional wrestling if two rookies like Bob Backlund and Chavo Guerrero appear in the same year. If the voting had gone on another couple of days, it could have gone the other way. But when the voting finally closed, Bob Backlund was declared "Rookie of the Year."

Backlund certainly deserves to be honored for his great rookie year. His unprecedented title victory over Harley Race to capture the Missouri belt electrified the wrestling community. His defenses of the belt were astonishing for one so young. Though still rough around the edges, Backlund is quickly developing a style which is becoming second nature to him. And the style is exceptional!

There appears to be no limit to Backlund's potential. He can adapt to his opponents' styles brilliantly, enabling him to counter as well as attack. Most remarkable is his poise. Even in danger, he never panics. As with all great wrestlers, Backlund can continue to be effective despite incredible pain. He's not a man to run when the chips are down.

The race was close because Chavo Guerrero is also worthy of this honor. In any other year, he would have been a shoo-in. In fact, when Backlund was told of his winning the honor, the first thing that came to his mind is that he defeated Chavo.

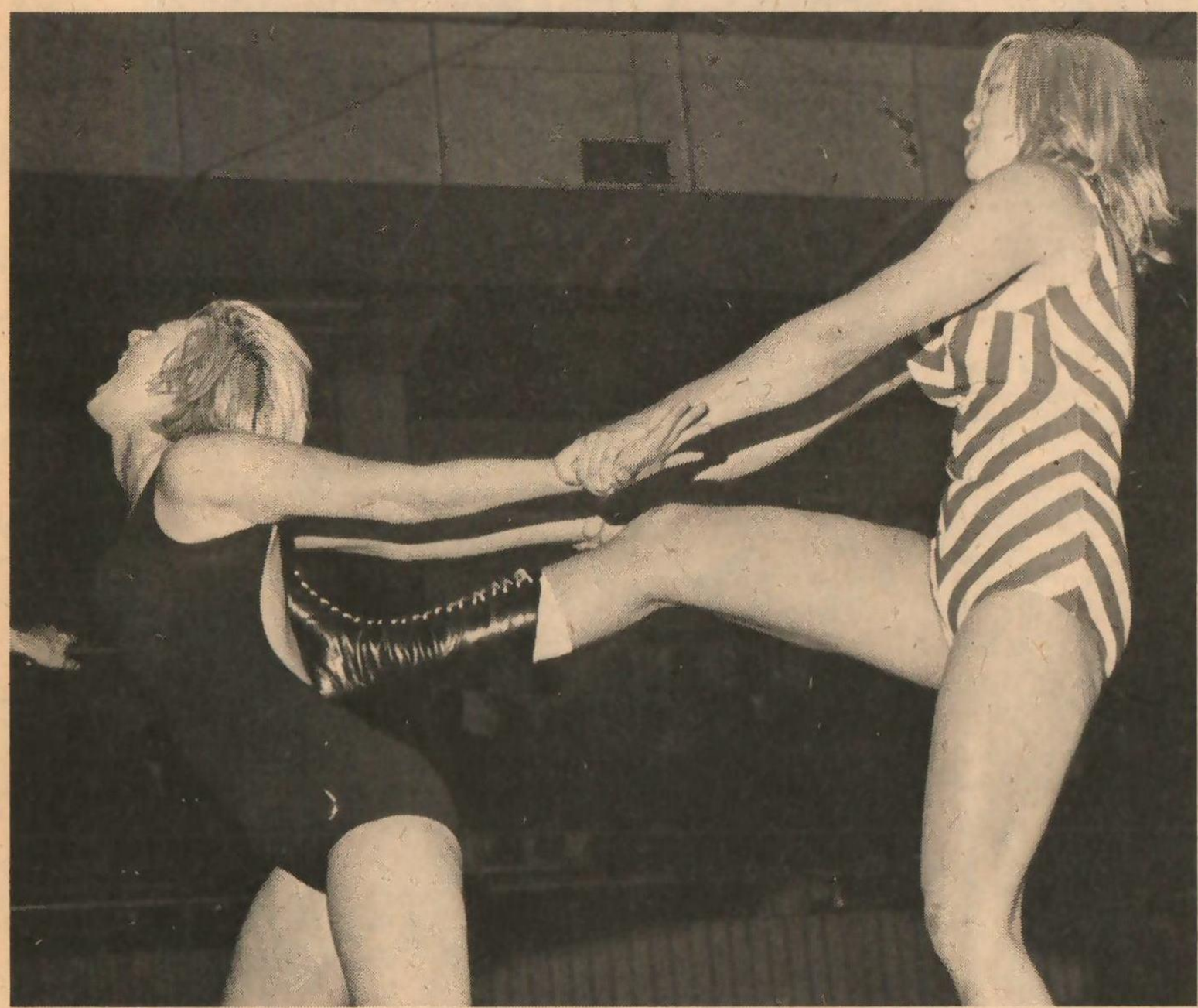
"More people voted for me than Guerrero!" Backlund exclaimed in wonder. "I can't believe it. I thought Chavo would be the easy victor. I've always dreamed of winning this award

(Continued on page 62)

TEX

Susan Green

SUE GREEN	22%
KITTY ADAMS	20%
EARLY DAWN	17%
VICKI WILLIAMS	12%
OTHERS	29%



WOMAN WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

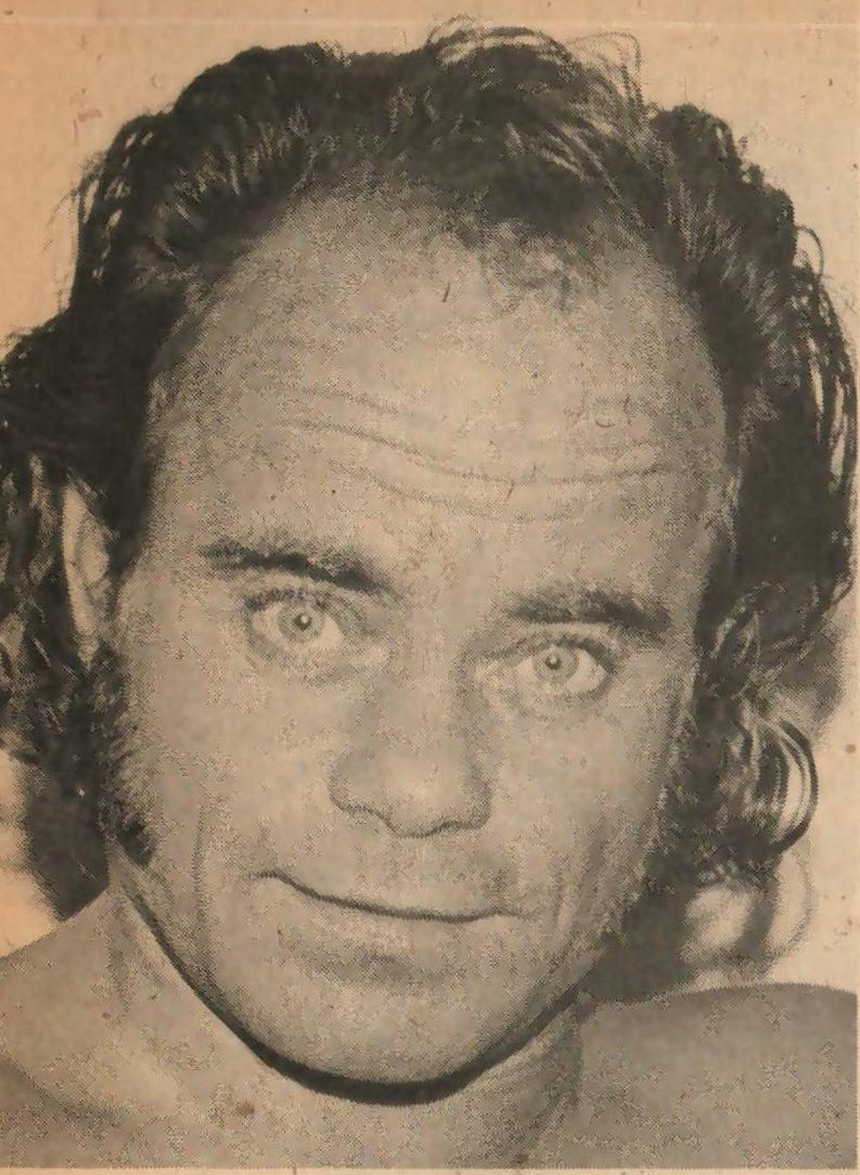
THERE WERE SOME strange voting patterns for "Woman Wrestler of the Year." The women who did the best were not the ones we predicted would triumph. Yet, upon reflection, the fans have honored those whose accomplishments this year were exemplary, proving once again the fans know best.

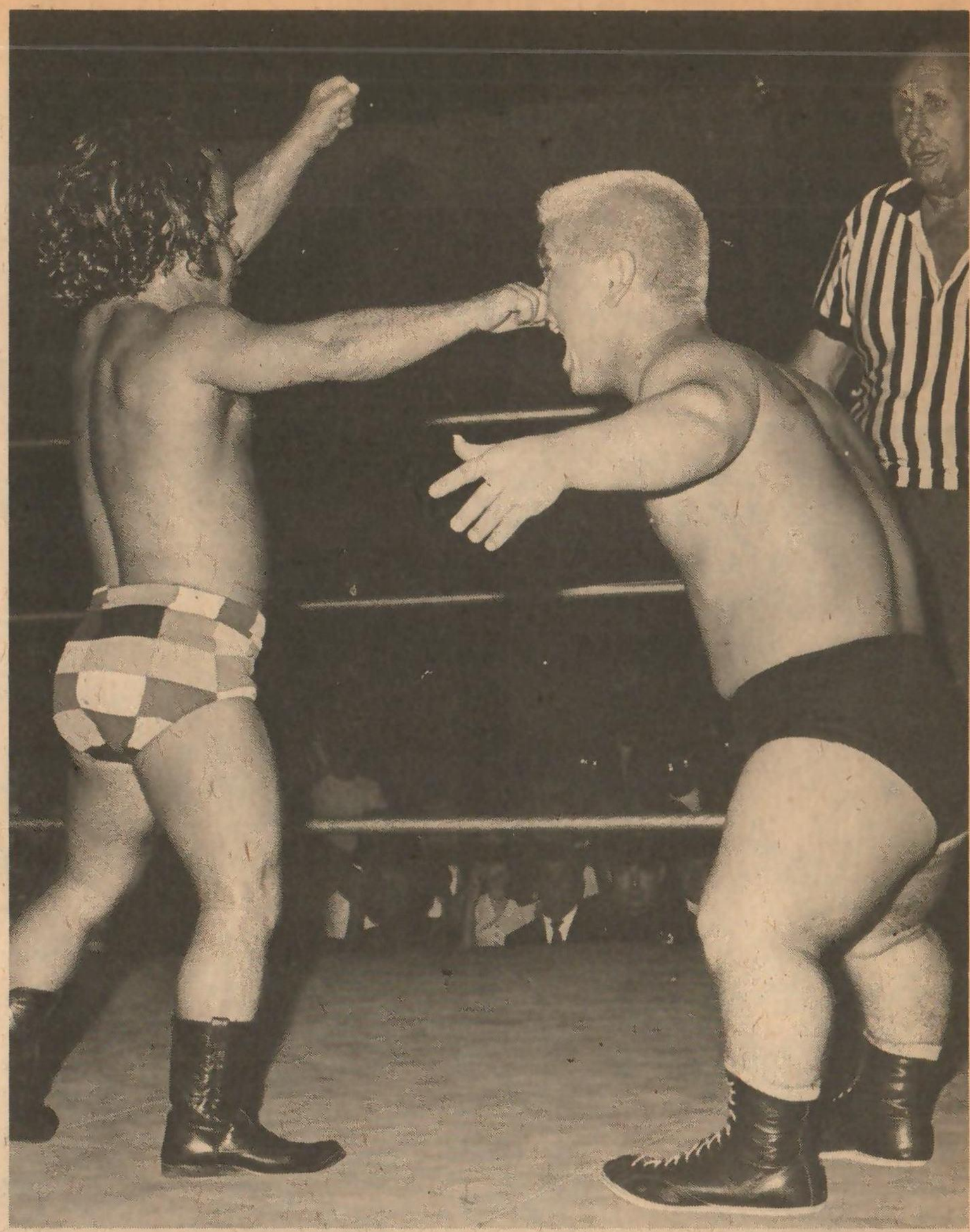
Sue Green took top honors this year and the award is well deserved. Her record is extraordinary. There are many victories which can be cited to prove her excellence. Her skills are always scientific, her battles always exciting. This tall beauty is a favorite with fans all over the world.

We were surprised but gratified to find Kitty Adams doing so well in the voting. This tawny wildcat had retired for a few years, then decided to return. This is a very difficult feat. Only an athlete can appreciate what this means in struggling to get back into shape. Remarkably, Kitty is wrestling very well, scoring many impressive victories. Only Sue Green had the credentials to beat her this year for top honors. Next year, there's no telling what achievements Kitty will accomplish.

Only one young lady made it on the list with the veterans. Early Dawn is thrilling Texas crowds with her beauty and athletic skills. Almost every ballot in the southwest named her to the top spot. If Early Dawn traveled throughout the country,

(Continued on page 64)



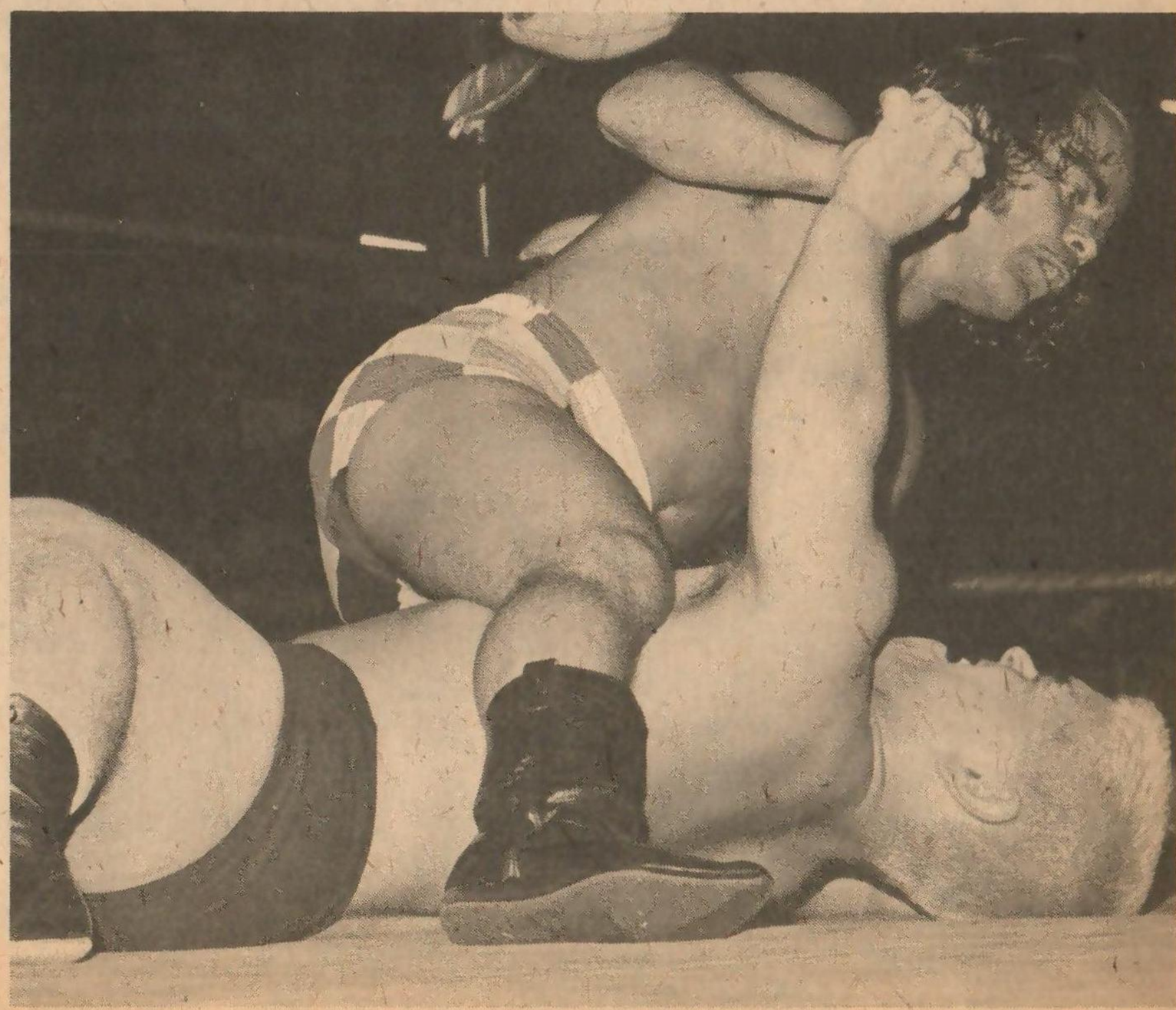


ONLY A FLOOD of votes for Lord Littlebrook in the last three days of voting won this excellent athlete "Midget Wrestler of the Year." Until then, it appeared Sky Low Low would repeat his triumph of last year in this category.

It was a close vote, with both men deserving honor for their accomplishments this year. However, it is only fitting Lord Littlebrook should be awarded this prestigious prize so that both men can claim this honor.

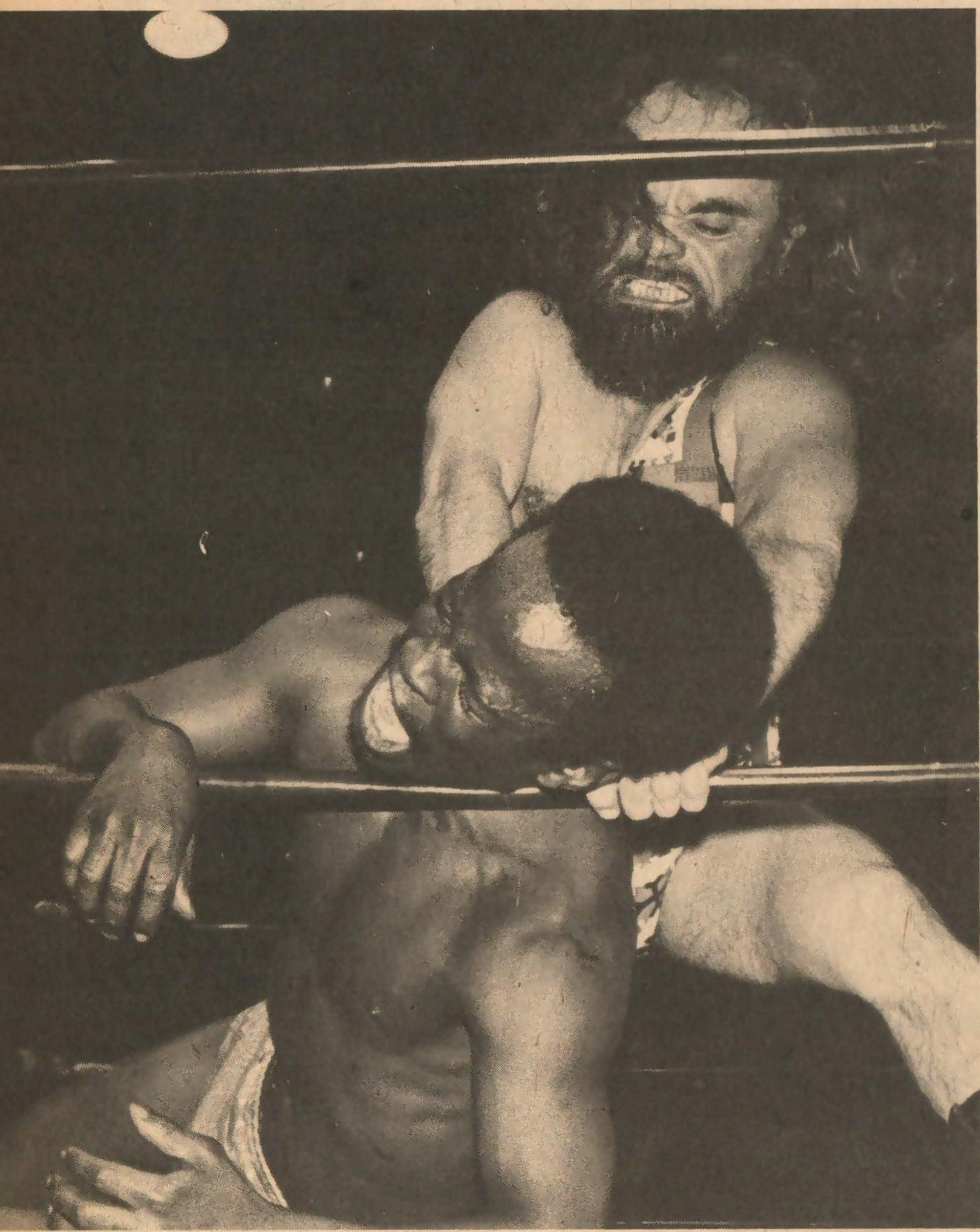
This past year, Littlebrook has proven midgets are equal in agility and cunning to their heavyweight counterparts. His victories have always been exciting, if less then scientific. Although Littlebrook has been known to break the rules, there's no questioning his skills. One can hope this award will convince him to restrict his maneuvers to the scientific variety. He should realize he doesn't need to break the rules in order to win.

Not only is Littlebrook excellent on his own, he's proven himself brilliant at tag team grappling. Again, rulebreaking tactics have



Lord Littlebrook

LORD LITTLEBROOK	29%
SKY LOW LOW	25%
COWBOY LAND	19%
DIAMOND LIL	17%
OTHERS	10%



marred the greatness of his accomplishments, which is a pity. There have been some matches, however, wher he's been strictly scientific. Those are among the best wrestling has ever known.

As might be expected, Littlebrook was delighted with the honor. What touched his most was an explanation written by one of the many who voted for him, a midget by the name of Don Lacktel of West Palm Beach, Florida.

"Lord Littlebrook," he wrote "is an extraordinary athlete, superb mat technician, and a ferocious competitor. As far as

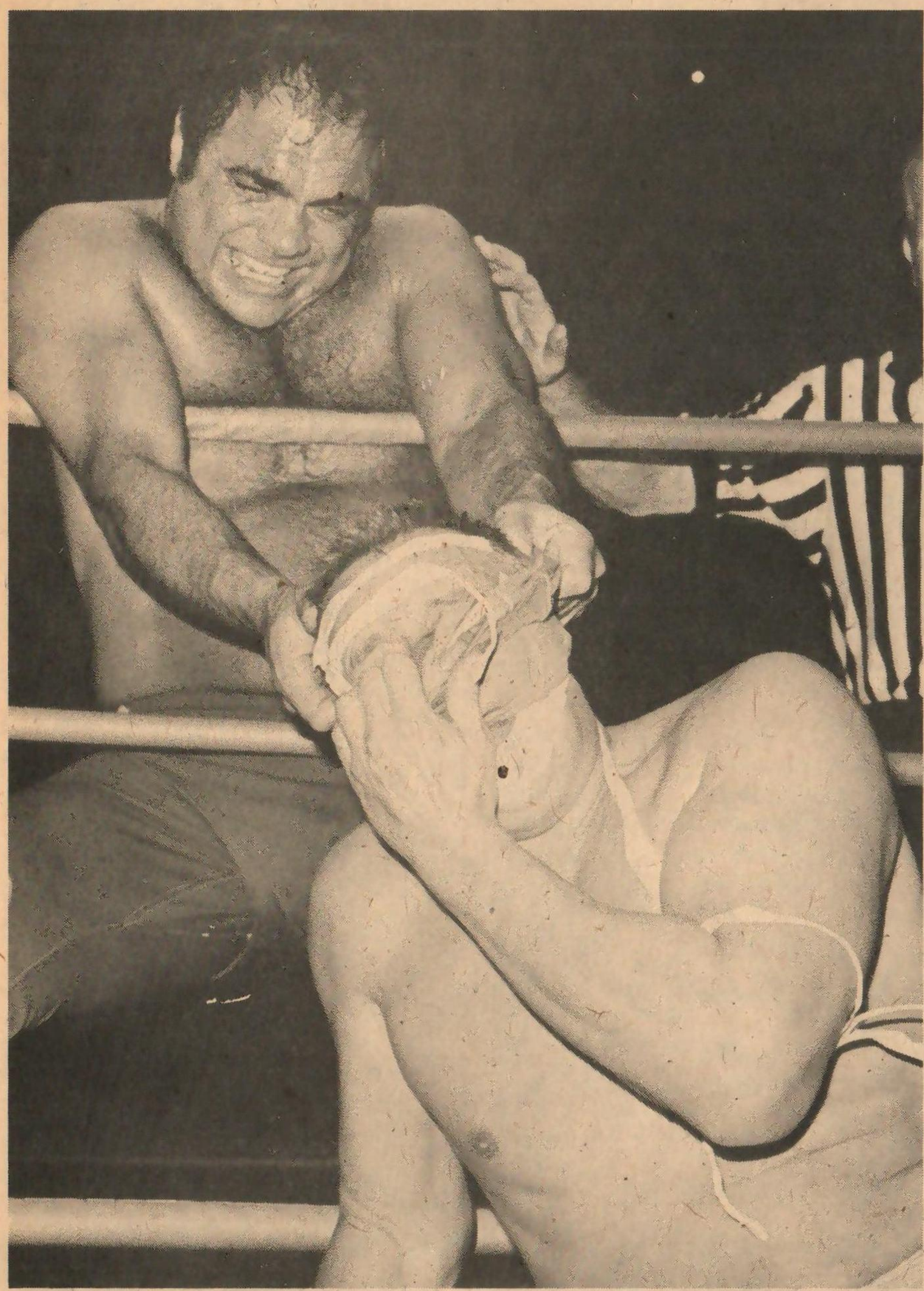
(Continued on page 65)

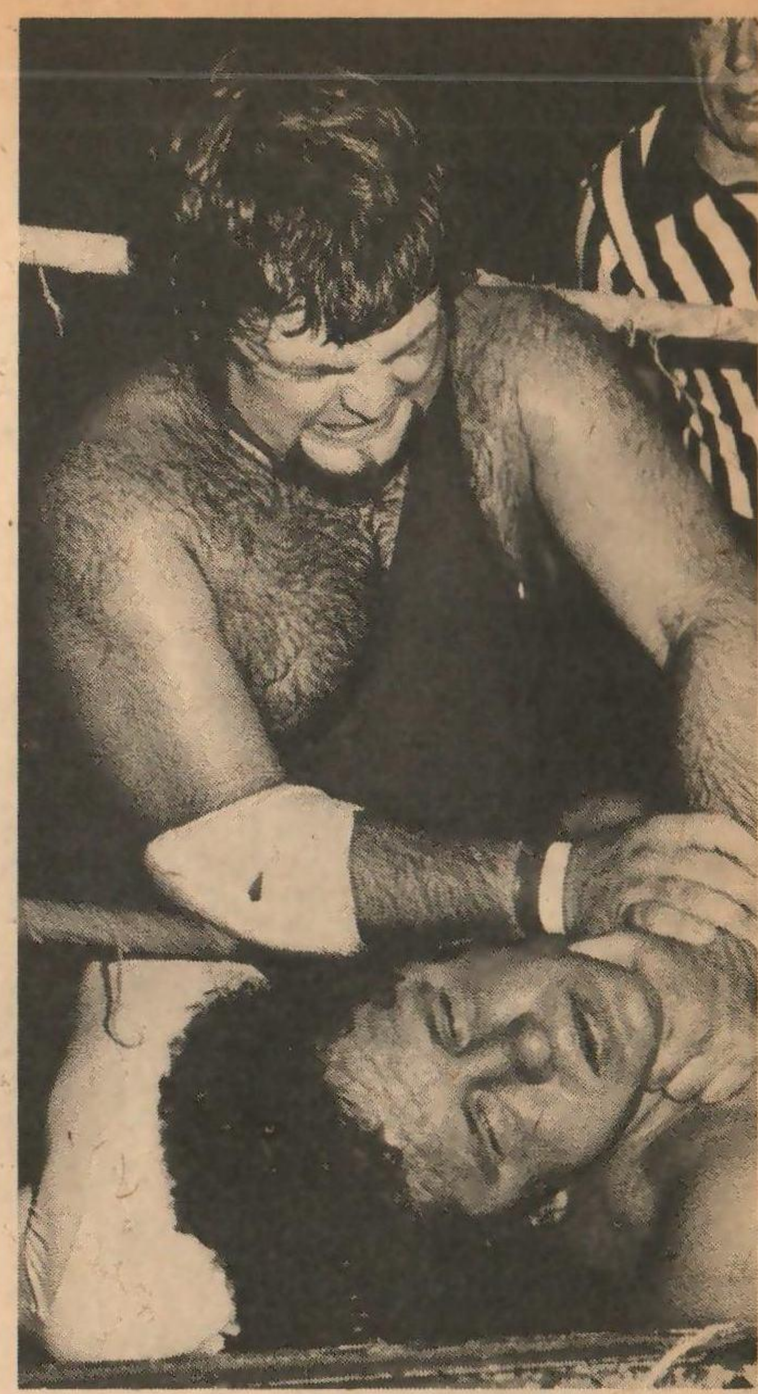
MID GET

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

OUTSTANDING PHOTOS

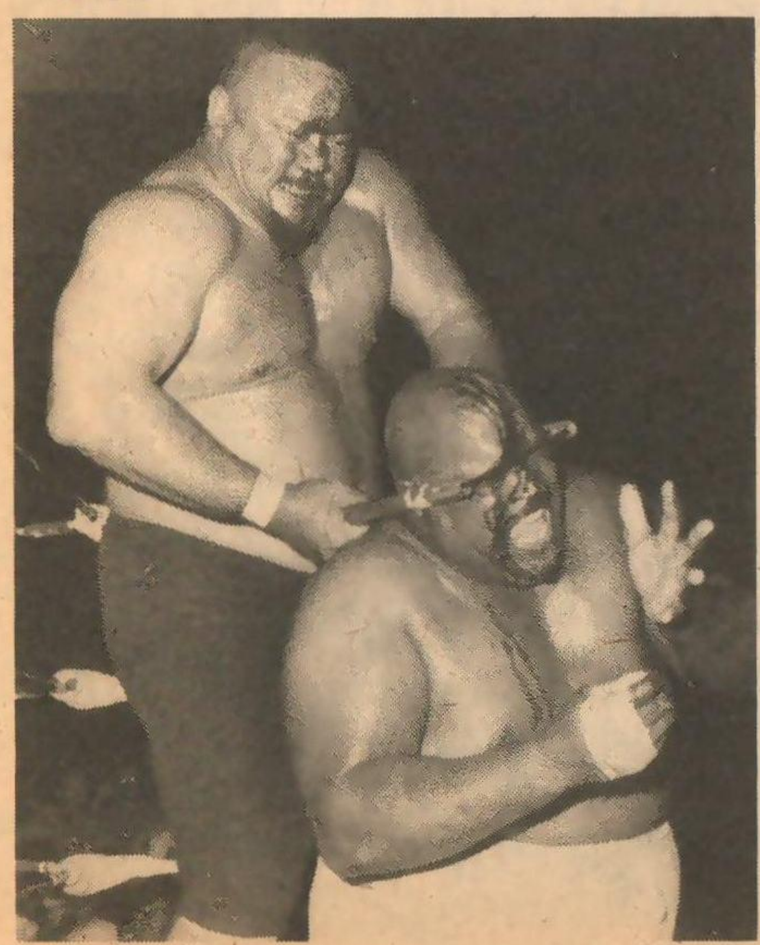
(Continued from Page 15)

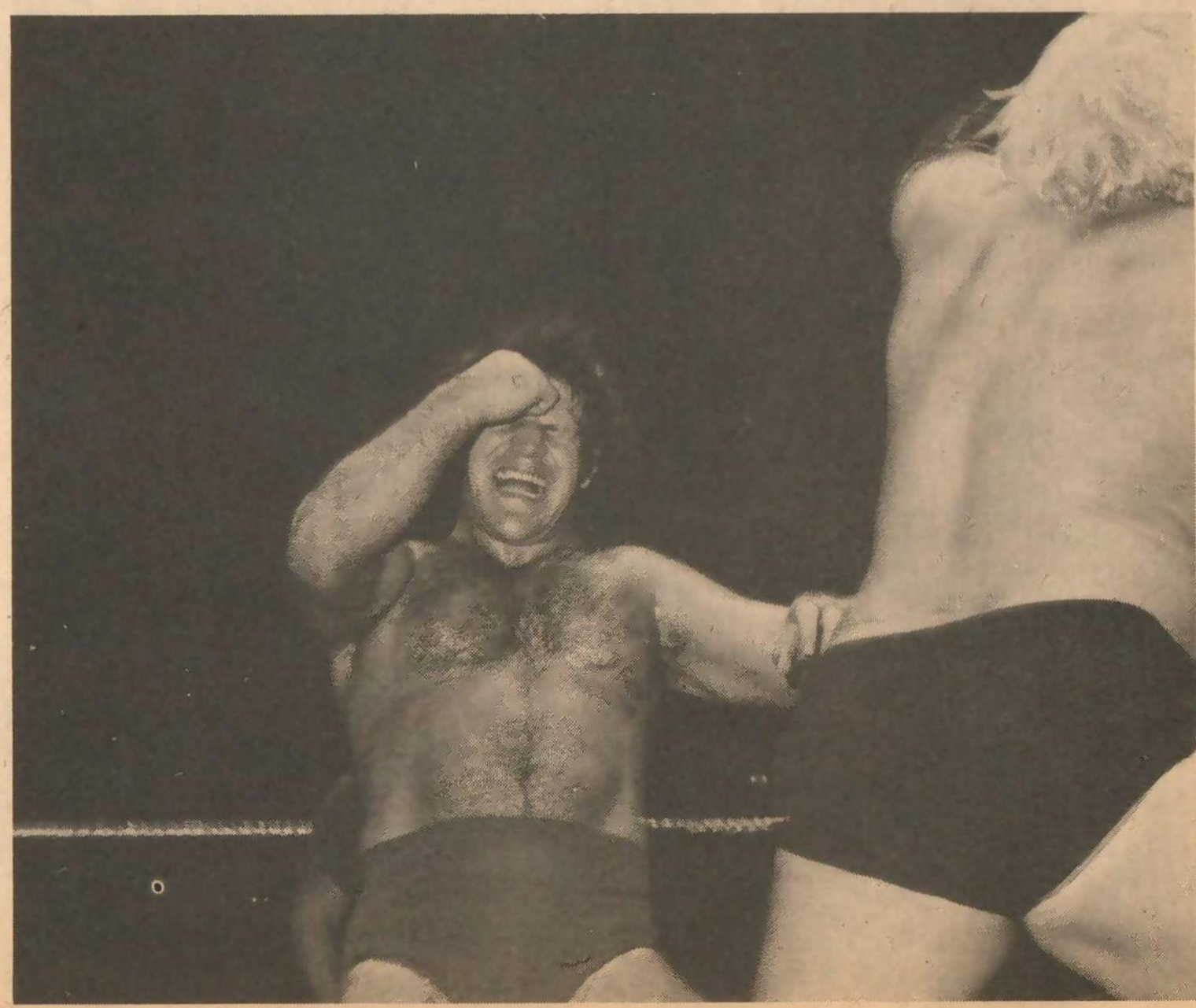




Above: Jerry Lawler crushes Terry Funk's windpipe, despite the screams from the referee to stop and the fact Funk is outside the ring ropes. It's a typical moment in this wild brawl. Left: John Tolos is tingling with anticipation as he tears off the mask of Zodiac. The masked grappler managed to flee with shreds of his mask still covering his face. Below left: Ken Patera is ready for the hurtling Mr.Fugi during a wild and reckless brawl. The two men brawled to a double disqualification that Carolina fans are still talking about! Below: Bulldog Brower thinks nothing of using a wooden press table as a weapon against Dino Bravo.

Above: It takes Inferno #1 and Ernie Ladd to hurl Andre the Giant over the ropes. Below: Professor Toru Tanaka has an Oriental weapon to squeeze Abdullah the Butcher's skull. Right: Bruno Sammartino reels from Stan Hansen's notorious "lariat."





The Executioners

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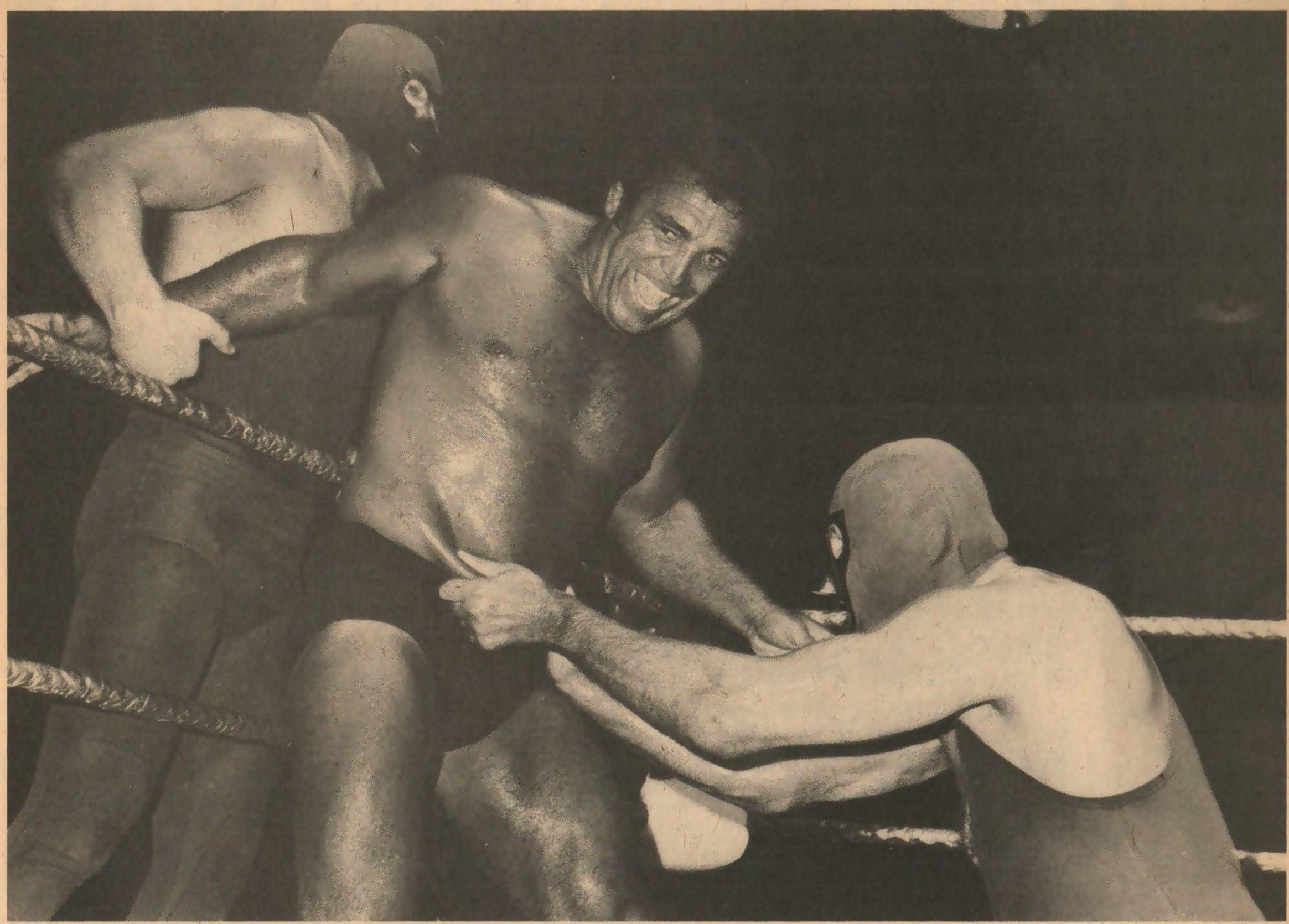


know their identities. Only a few know for sure—and they're not talking. The Executioners promise swift retribution if their real identities are revealed to the public. It's a risk no one want to take.

In second place were the Anderson brothers. Everyone knows who Ole and Gene are—the most reprehensible tag team in the NWA. This team won the award last year. However, they couldn't overcome The Executioners' notoriety and mystery, Next year, it should be a real horse race between the two teams.

The team with the best chance of unseating The Executioners is the third place team, Billy White Wolf and Chief Jay Strongbow. Because they haven't been successful in beating The Executioners, they failed to gain a majority of votes. If this pair becomes tag team champions in 1977, you can bet your last dollar they'll win "Tag Team of the Year" next year.

Though they received only a smattering of votes, the Valiants are a team with the most rabid fans in the world. Though the brothers are having some rough tmes, their fans follow each move with dedication. With a little luck next year, the Valiants will once again be the top team around.

The Executioners weren't surprised when they discovered they'd won the honor.

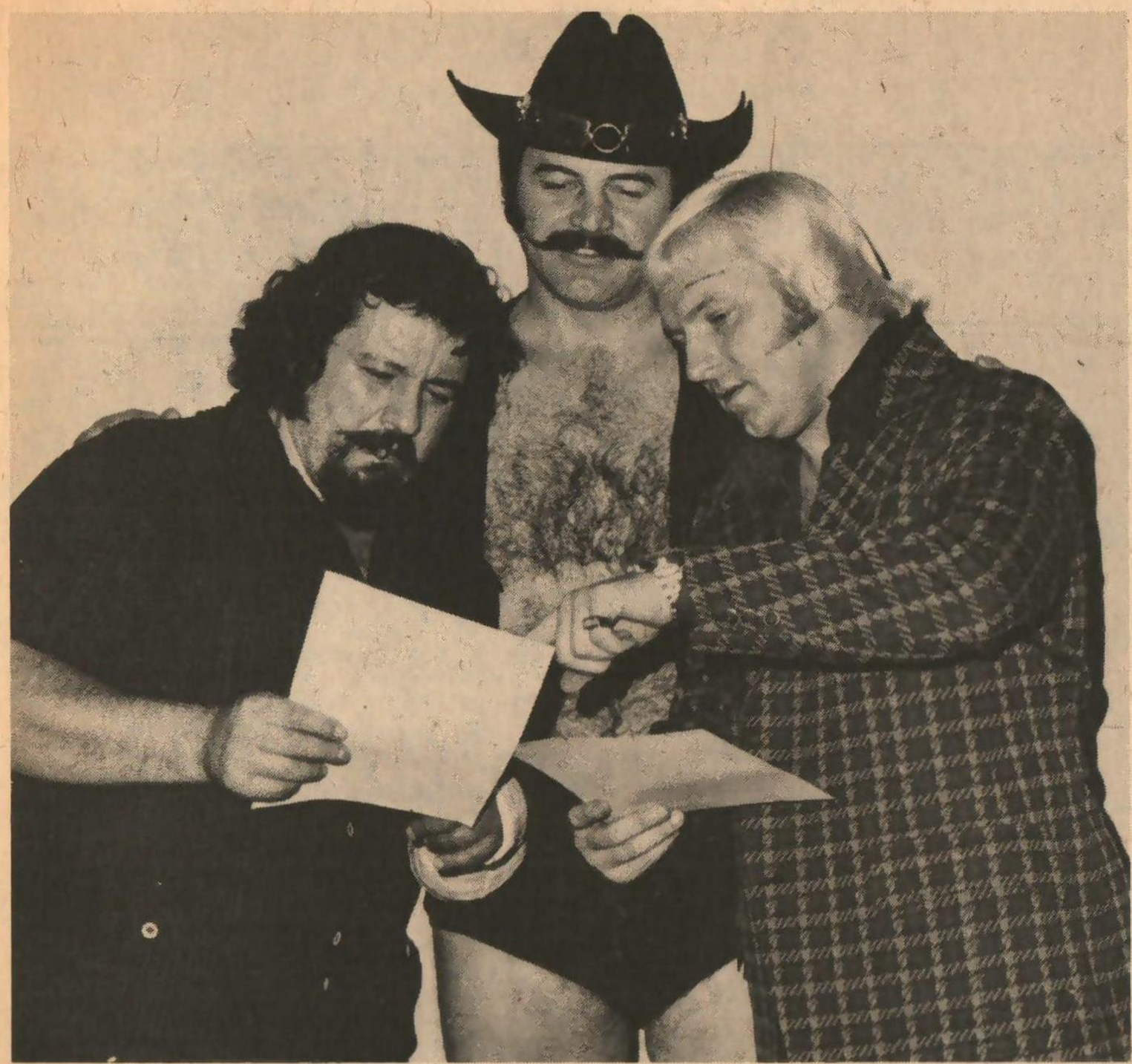
"Who else could have won?" laughed Executioner #1. "We're the top team around and everyone knows it. In fact, we're better than anyone suspects. You might as well retire the award as long as we're around. No one's coming close to us. We're the greatest team that's ever been or ever will be."

We're going to make another fortune!" Albano screamed when told his team had won. 'We'll get twice as much money as before, maybe three times. Albano will have his empire! I'll own wrestling! I'll own everyone in wrestling! I am invincible!"

The Executioners have been named by the fans "Tag Team of the Year." However, most of those who voted sincerly hope The Executioners won't be around for next year's poll. They all look forward to the day when wrestling will be freed from the yoke of The Executioners' oppression. □

Bobby Heenan

(Continued from Page 31)



manager to watch in 1977.

One wouldn't expect Bobby Heenan to be grateful for the honor bestowed on him. He pretended not to even be excited.

"I knew it," Heenan replied calmly after hearing of his remarkably large majority, "so I'm not surprised. Every so often, a man is so great even the idiot fans know it. I'm that great; too magnificent to be ignored. It must have been a shock to those clowns to finally vote for someone splendid. I wonder how they felt doing something intelligent."

For being the man behind the AWA's champions, Bobby Heenan received an incredible number of votes to win "Manager of the Year." His accomplishments are not worthy of honor, for his success is the most ruthless in sports. It's a sad occasion for wrestling. □

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Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen

(Continued from Page 33)

for Andre the Giant's conquest of Abdullah the Butcher. This was a furious brawl in which Andre avenged everyone ever tortured by Abdullah. It is sure to be a classic in wrestling lore. However, since there was little wrestling skill involved, with just one man's brute strength dominating, it did not receive enough votes to win. Most of Andre's fans most appreciate his scientific skills, not his brawling.

The voting reflected a good year throughout wrestling. There were many matches named with many different combinations. Dusty Rhodes was mentioned often, but not often enough against a particular opponent. Jerry Lawler suffered the same fate. Every area also had its local favorite that never managed to gain national attention.

Wrestling can be proud of Hansen against Sammartino, "Match of the Year." It was a fine battle filled with human drama, awesome in its consequences. It would make any year one to remember. ☐

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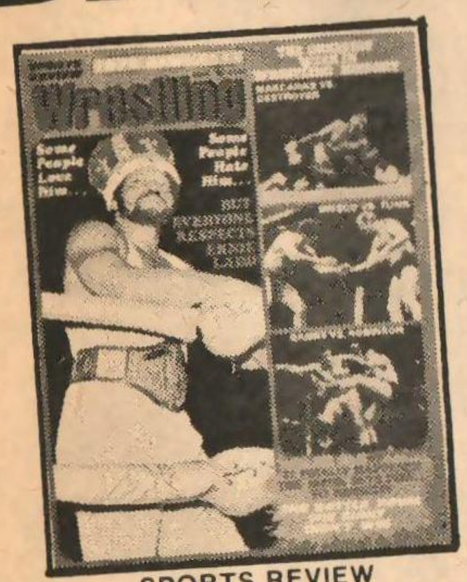
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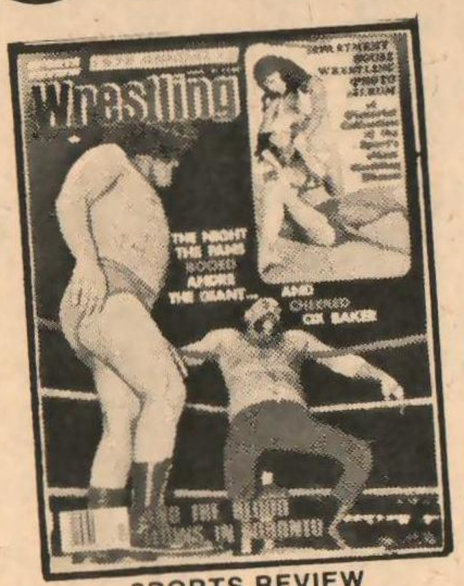
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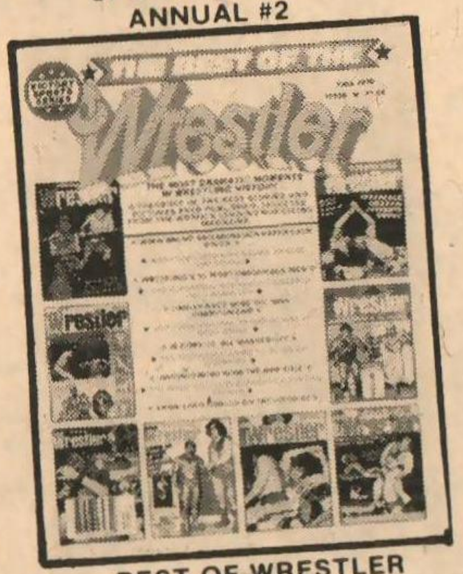
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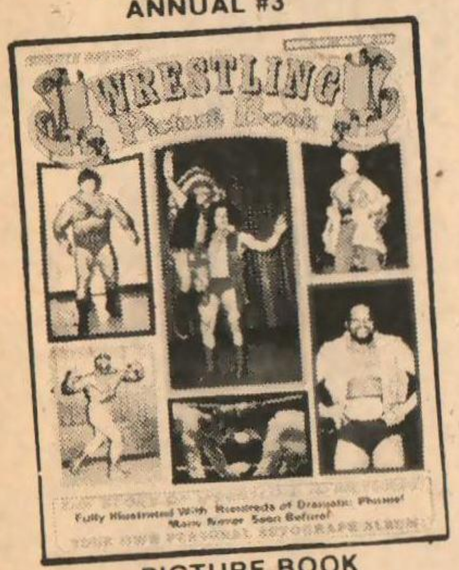
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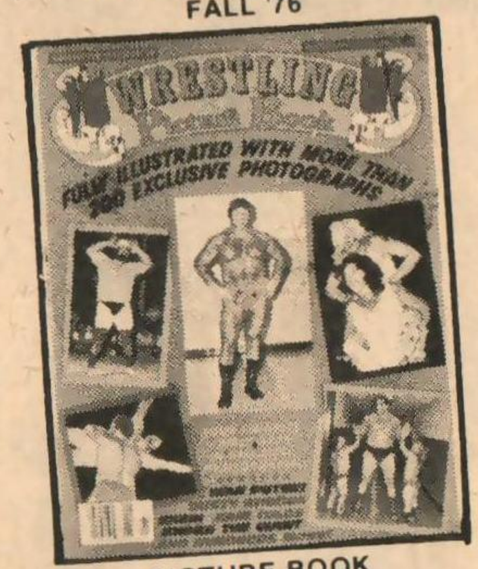
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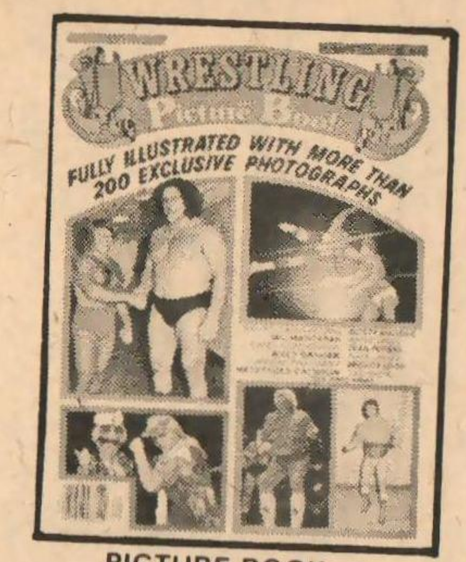
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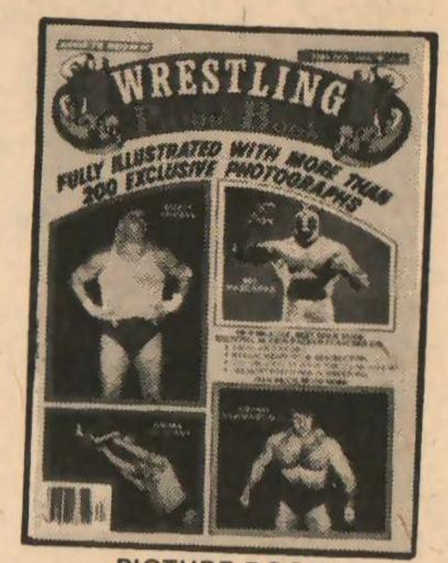
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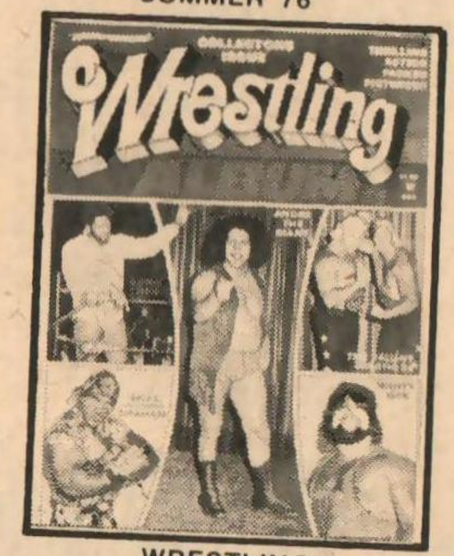
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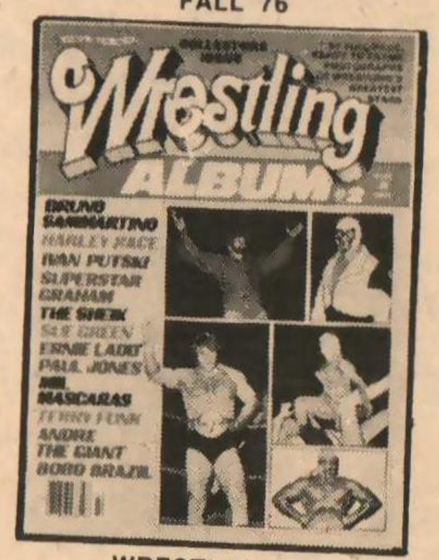
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Terry Funk

(Continued from Page 35)

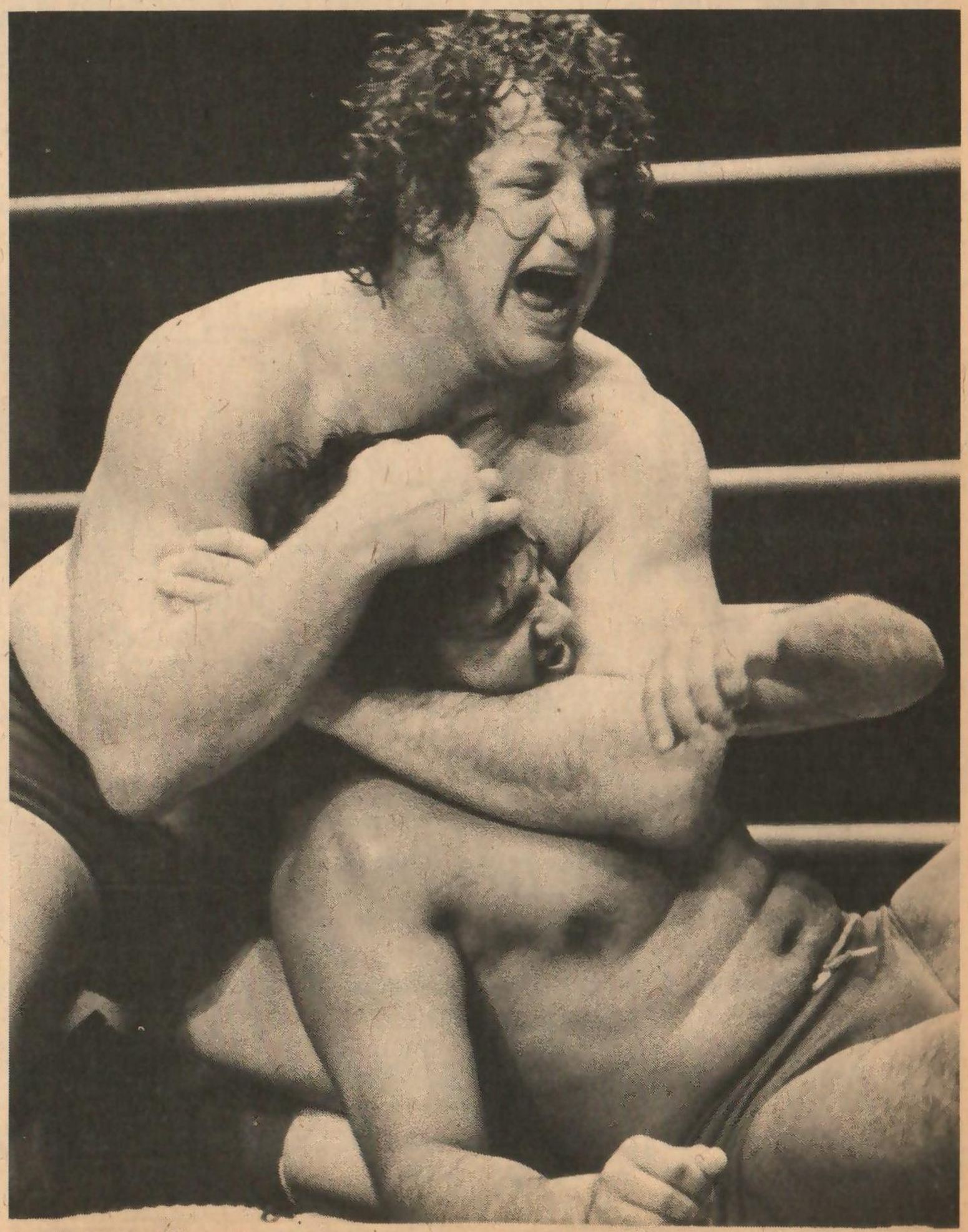
sure he'll be a top contender for 1977 honors.

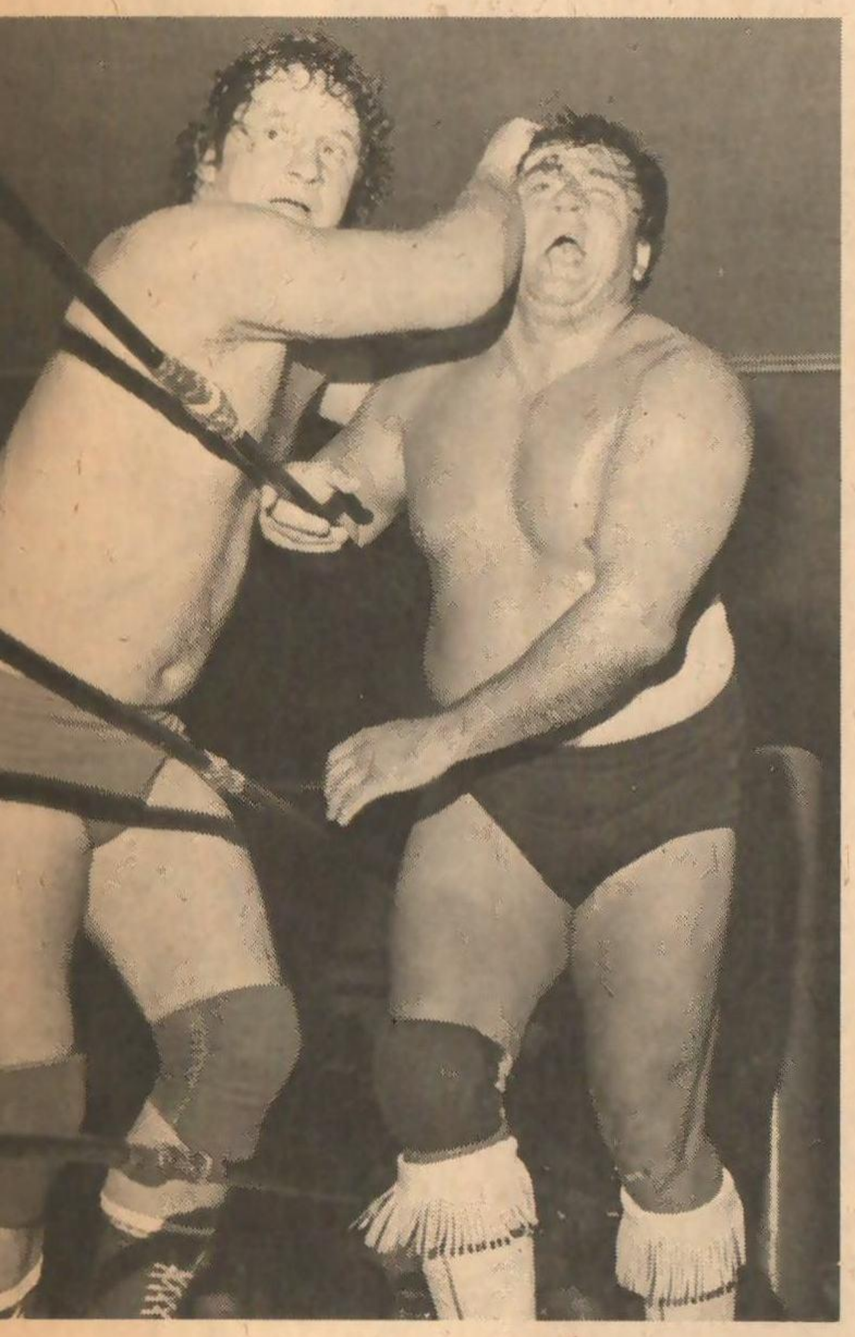
There were over 300 wrestlers who received mention in this category. Some are unknown outside their local areas. Others enjoy world-wide reputations. Each has done some accomplishment for a fan to think of him or her as the sport's supreme athlete. More and more, the quality of today's athlete reflects the growth and improvement of wrestling. This dynamic sport will continue to prosper as long as it enjoys a pool of such extraordinary athletes.

This year, 1976, Terry Funk has been named top man by the most knowledgeable people in the sport. Funk has been called nasty and cold over the years, but he was warmly delighted when informed of his honor.

"I had a feeling this was my year," he said excitedly, "the year of Terry Funk. It's been a great year for me all around, but this award makes it the best ever. 'Wrestler of the Year.'—that means the world to me.

"I've said a lot of rotten things about some of the fans. But for me to win, some of them must have voted for me, anyway.





That's really remarkable. I'm not taking anything back I said about them, because I was right at the time, but they are fair. I may not like them from now on, but you can bet I'll respect them a whole lot more."

This has been a great year for wrestling. It's been the best year for Terry Funk, thanks to the fans and the award, "Wrestler of the Year." □

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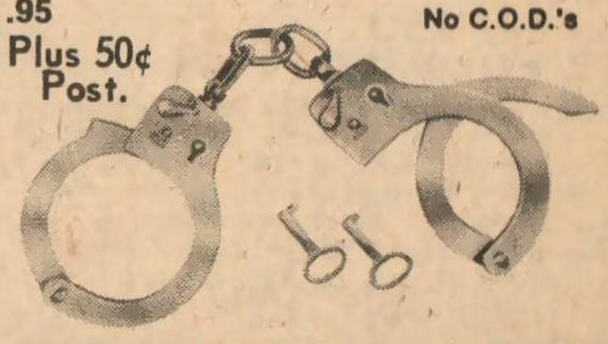

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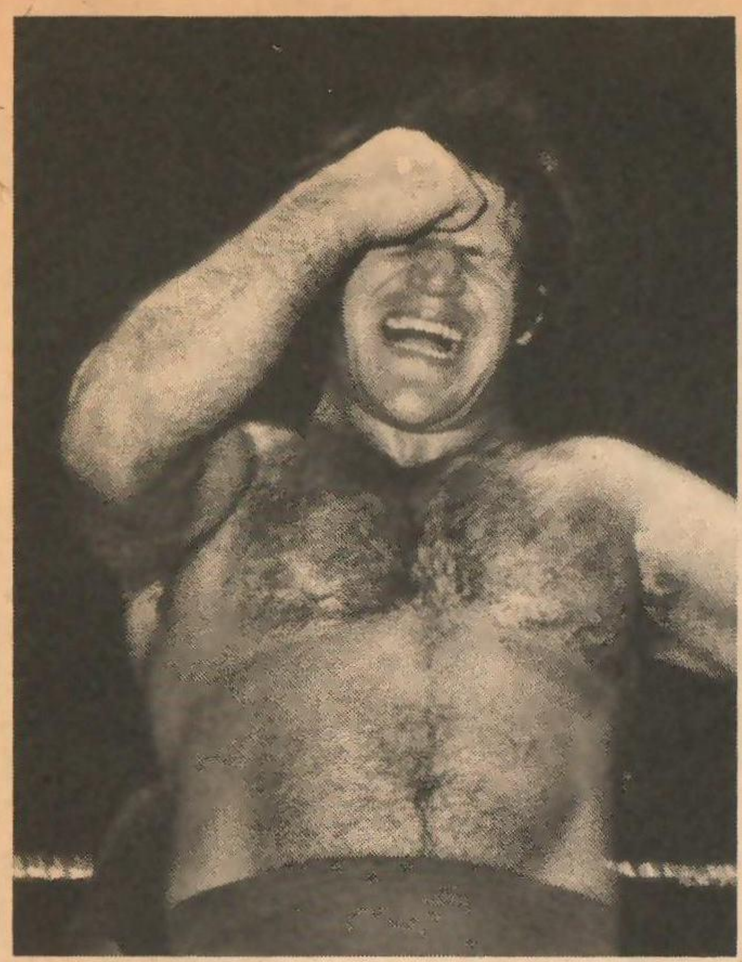
Bruno Sammartino

(Continued from Page 37)

career to be over, especially after the pronouncements Flair shouted about Wahoo being permanently crippled. It was with relief and joy fans welcomed back Wahoo to the mat wars; his victory over Flair the greatest success of his career. Those who believed Wahoo to be the inspirational wrestler of the year chose a man who continues to be great



athlete and remarkable human being.

Bob Roop and Bob Armstrong suffered broken legs during the year but came back and wrestled as well as ever. Only professional athletes can appreicate the horror a broken leg can mean to a man whose career centers around his body. Many men are never able to be effective again after suffering a mat injury. Roop and Armstrong are to be congratulated on their determination and courage.

Sammartino, when he learned of his honor, was stunned with joy. There was a catch in his voice from welling emotion when he spoke.

"Of all the honors I've won," Bruno declared, "this is the most important. To know the fans have gotten inspiration from what I've done, people may become a little braver because of me, it is the greatest honor a man can receive. The fans have made a poor Italian immigrant into an American success story. Everything I do is intended to repay them for their generosity. This award shows I have been able to give them something back."

"Inspirational Wrestler of the Year" is Bruno Sammartino. It's an award he richly deserves. He went through agony to earn it. □

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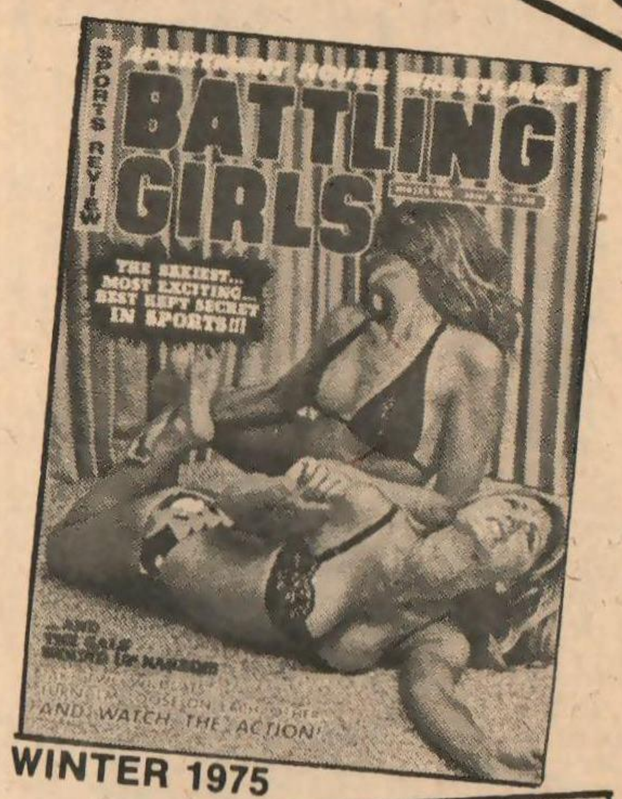
Fortunately, we have a limited supply of additional copies, which we are now making available. We warn you to avoid another sold out disappointment by ordering immediately.



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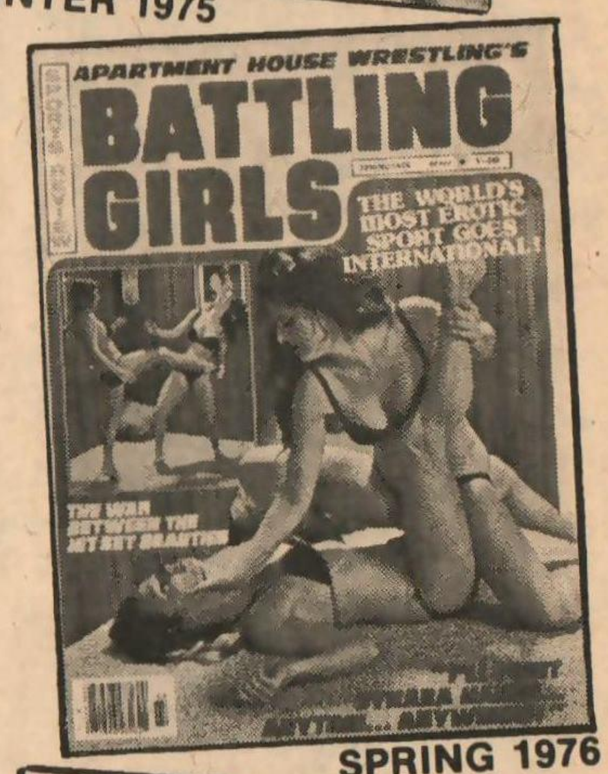

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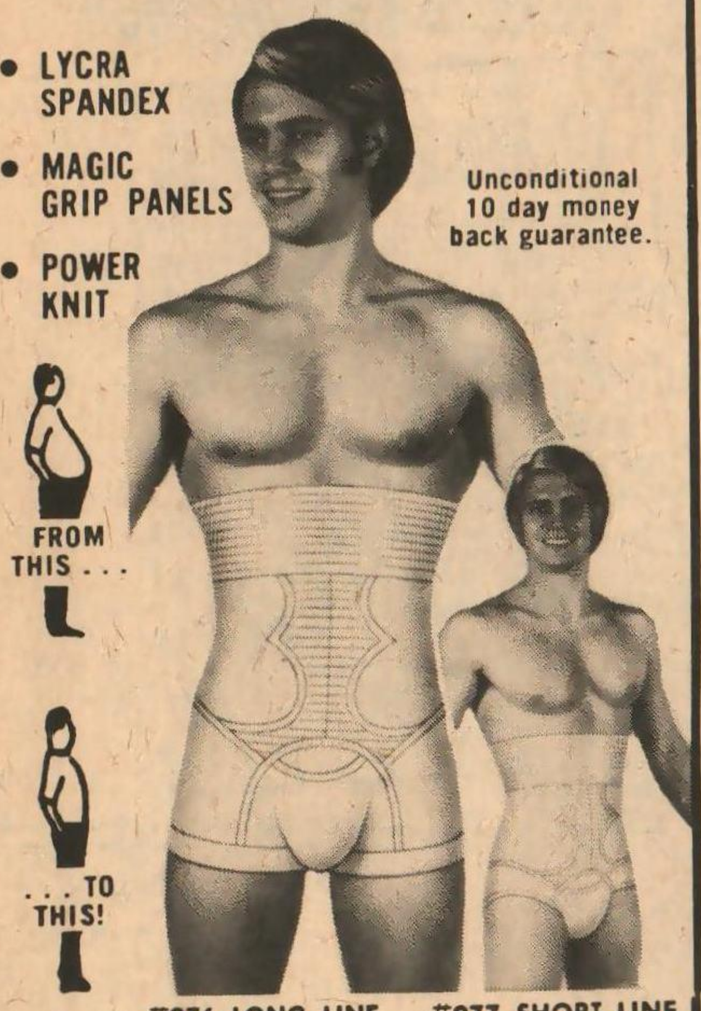

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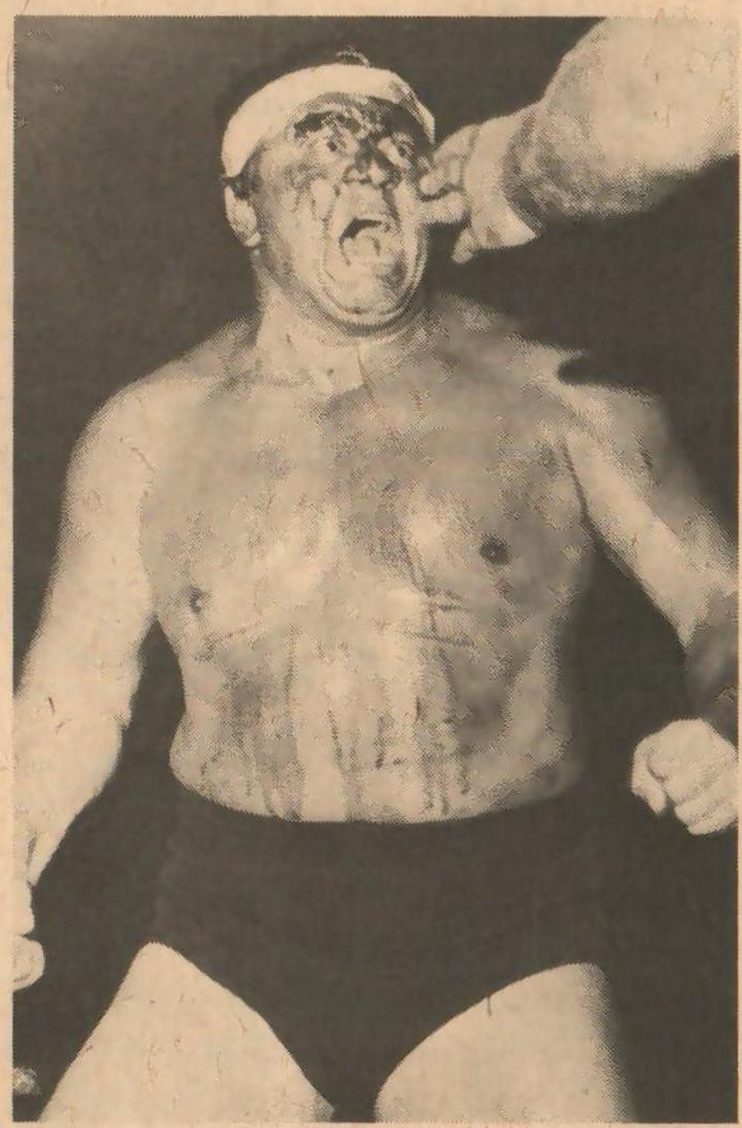
Wahoo McDaniel

(Continued from Page 39)



Right behind McDaniel was Chief Jay Strongbow, always a man who garners many votes in this poll. Strongbow captures the hearts of fans, wherever he goes, bringing them his unique brand of wrestling. He attracts fans with his kindness and charisma. Every year, he is sure to be in the running.

Last year's "Wrestler of the Year" came in third place in this year's "Most Popular" category. Mr. Wrestling II has thrilled fans all year with top matches. It's no wonder they'd reward him with so many votes attesting to his popularity.

Anyone who hears the cheers when Ivan Putski enters an

arean knows he scored well in this poll. It was his misfortune to be overshadowed by the remarkable events that convulsed the WWWF this year: Bruno Sammartino's injury and return plus the arrival of The Executioners. If there wasn't so much turmoil in the division to take away from his accomplishments, Ivan might have won it all this year.

When Wahoo was told of his victory, the war whoop of victory almost shattered the telephone.

"I can't believe it!" McDaniel screamed. "This is just great! Are you sure its true? There won't be a recount?"

We assured him he was the official winner for 1976.

"Of course," he declared in a somewhat calmer voice, "I want to thank the fans who voted for me. I wish I could thank them each personally. I'd also like to thank professional wrestling for letting me earn a living doing something I love. At this moment, when a man knows he's succeeded, all the struggle and pain seem worth the price a hundred times over."

According to friends, Wahoo didn't have a wild celebration over his victory. He just stayed home with a few close friends, sitting in a chair with a holy man smile. He was at peace with the world, his ambitions, and his demons.

"Most Popular Wrestler of the Year" is Chief Wahoo McDaniel. Every fan knows 1000 reasons why that's so. □

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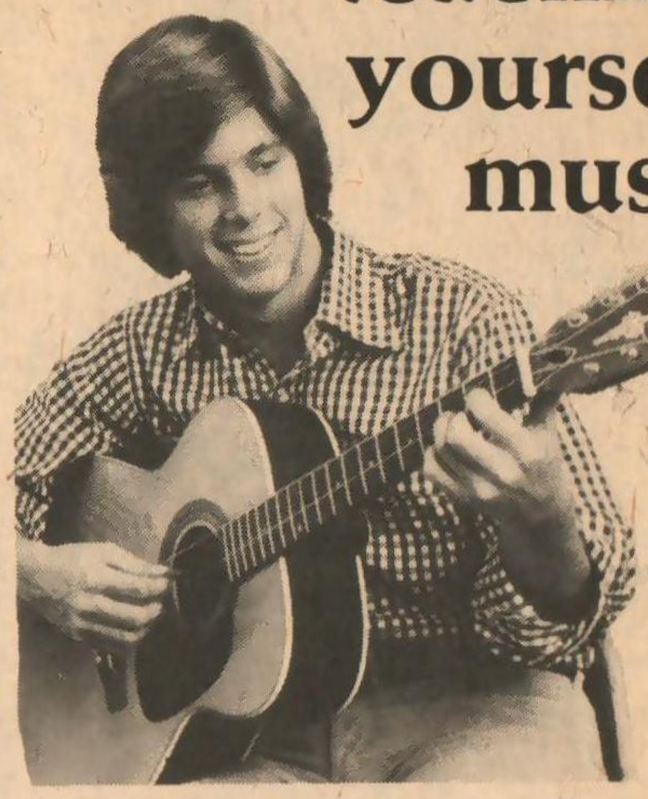

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Stan Hansen

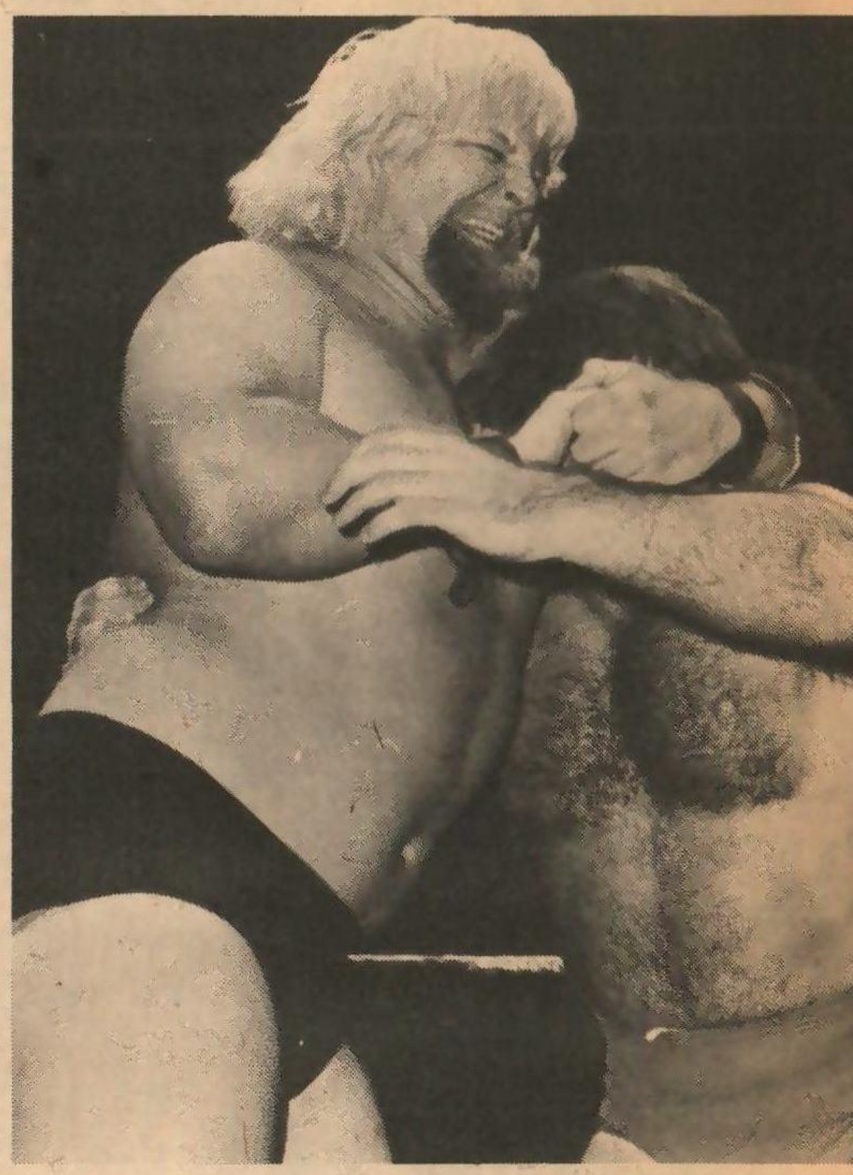
(Continued from Page 41)

Hansen declared, "afraid to admit I'm the greatest in the world. They say I use dirty tactics. They say I fill my elbowpad with steel when I smack someone with the lariat. That's nonsense and they know it. They're afraid of me, so they hate me. Who cares what some cowards think, anyway? I never met a fan who knew the first thing about wrestling."

Hansen was only one of many men who received a sizeable vote, which says something about the state of wrestling.

There were over 80 people mentioned as the worst rulebreaker of all, proving there is a large and dangerous collection of rulebreakers in the sport. It's a reflection of the widespread influence cheating has in the sport. Many believe rulebreakers are the dominant force in wrestling, forcing the scientific wrestlers to bend to their wills. It's a sad commentary.

One of the more interesting ballots failed to write in the name of a wrestler in this



category. John Chase, of Taos, New Mexico, wrote an explanation of the ommission.

"If we allow the rulebreakers to think they're gaining a reputation," he believes, "then we're only encouraging others to follow in their footsteps. These men should be ignored, not singled out, even for damnation. They don't deserve notoriety or consideration. I think this category does a great deal of harm to wrestling and no good whatsoever. Please consider this and eliminate the category."

Though we feel the fans have a right to vote for "Villian of the Year" as a way of expressing disgust, there is merit in Chase's arguments. Therefore, we're asking the fans to vote on whether or not this category should be eliminated next year. Though we think it's important, the will of the fans is more important still. Please write this magazine for your opinions.

This year, Stan Hansen is "Villian of the Year." Next year, who knows what will happen.□

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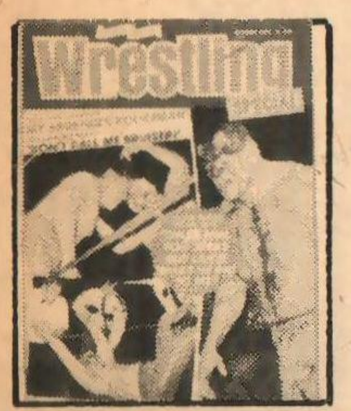
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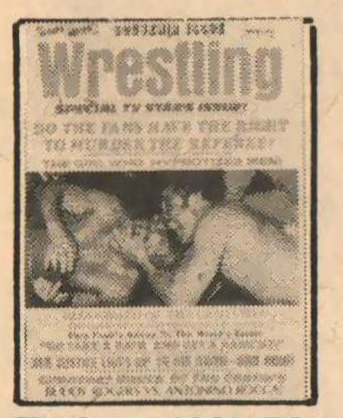
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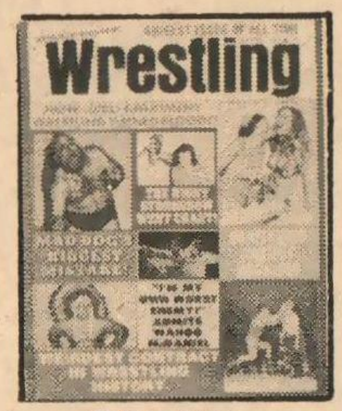
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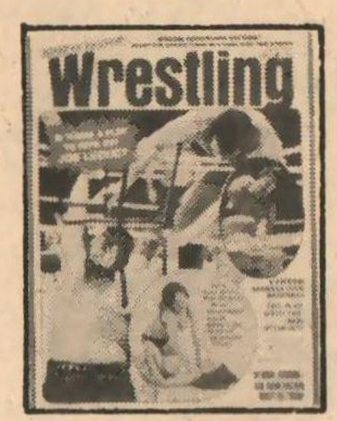
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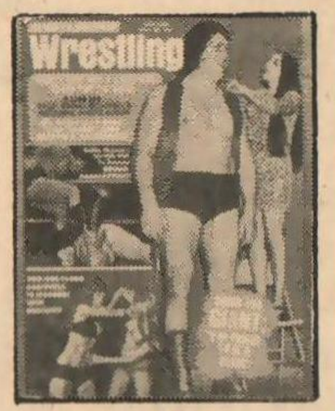
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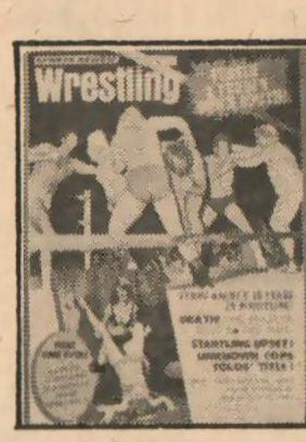
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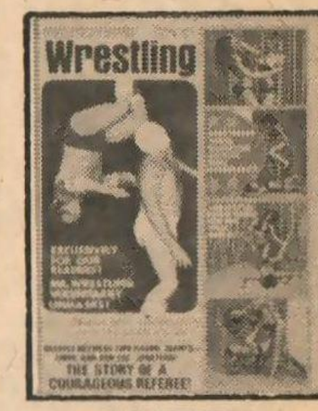
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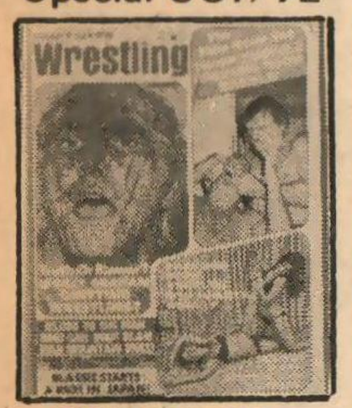
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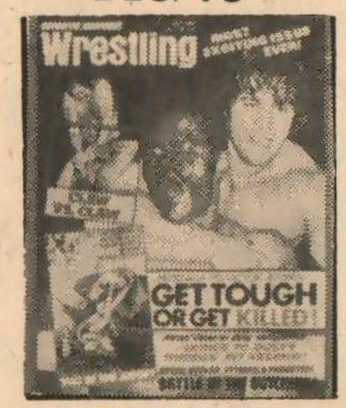
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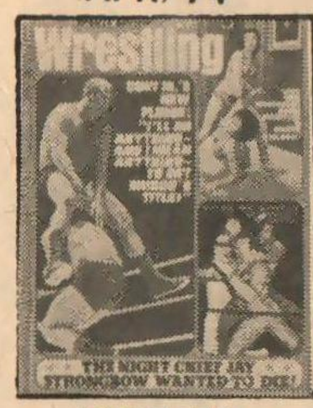
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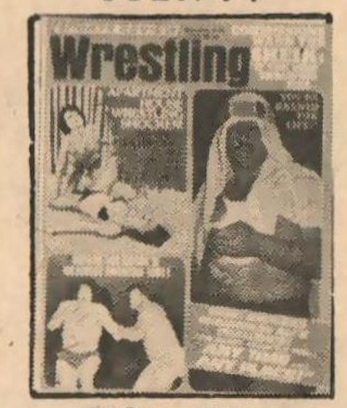
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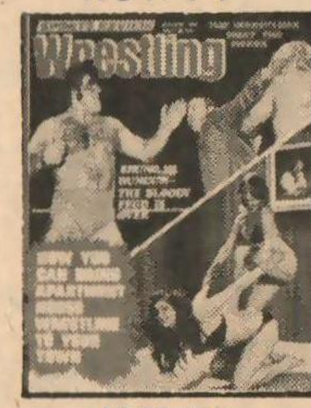
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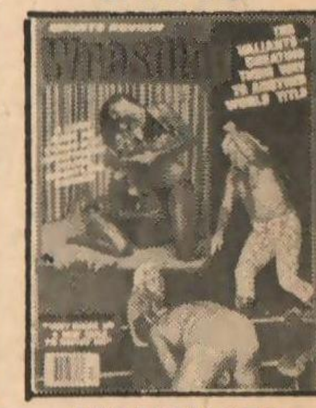
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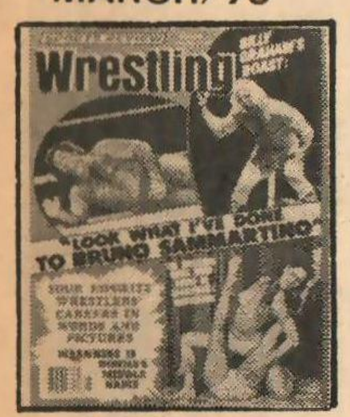
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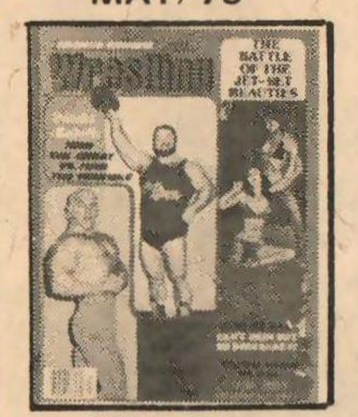
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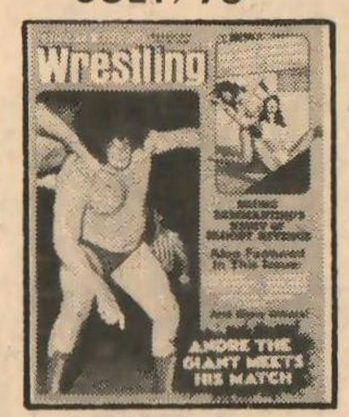
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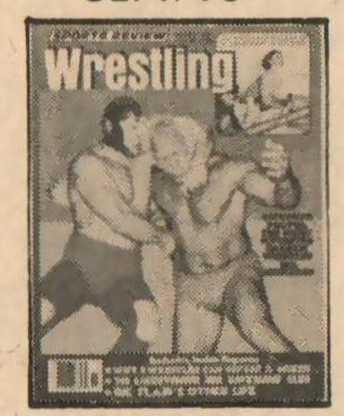
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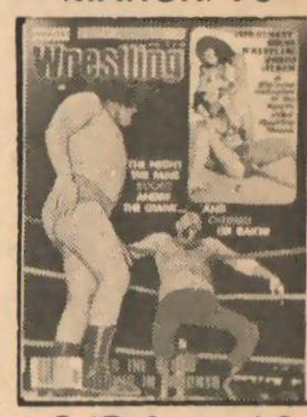
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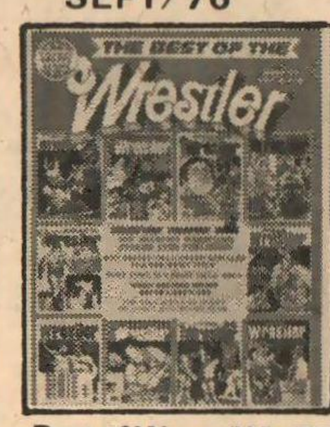
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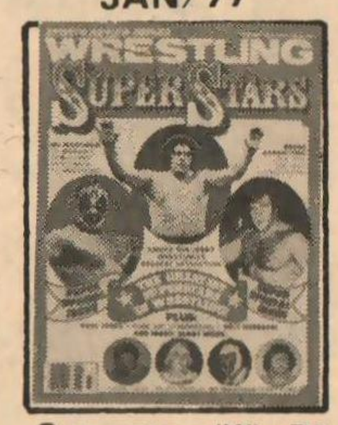
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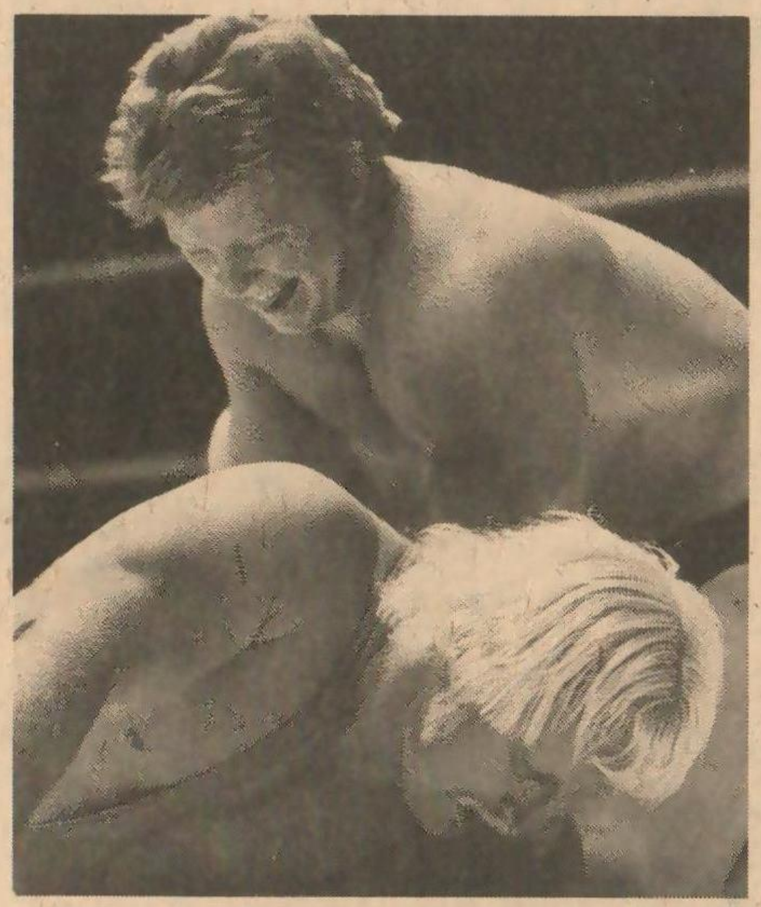
Bob Backlund

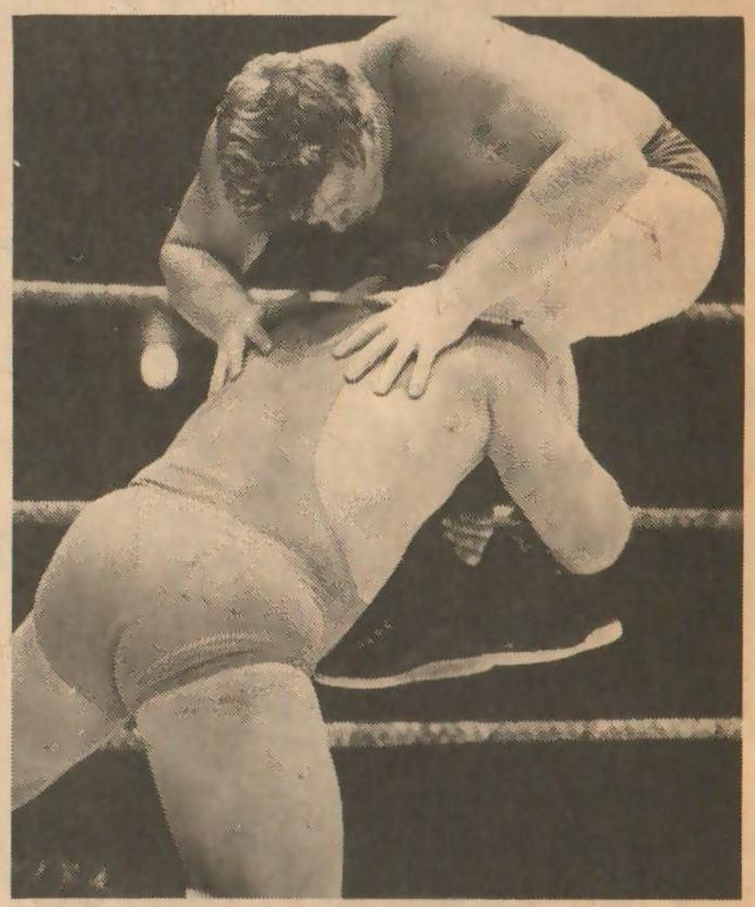
(Continued from Page 43)

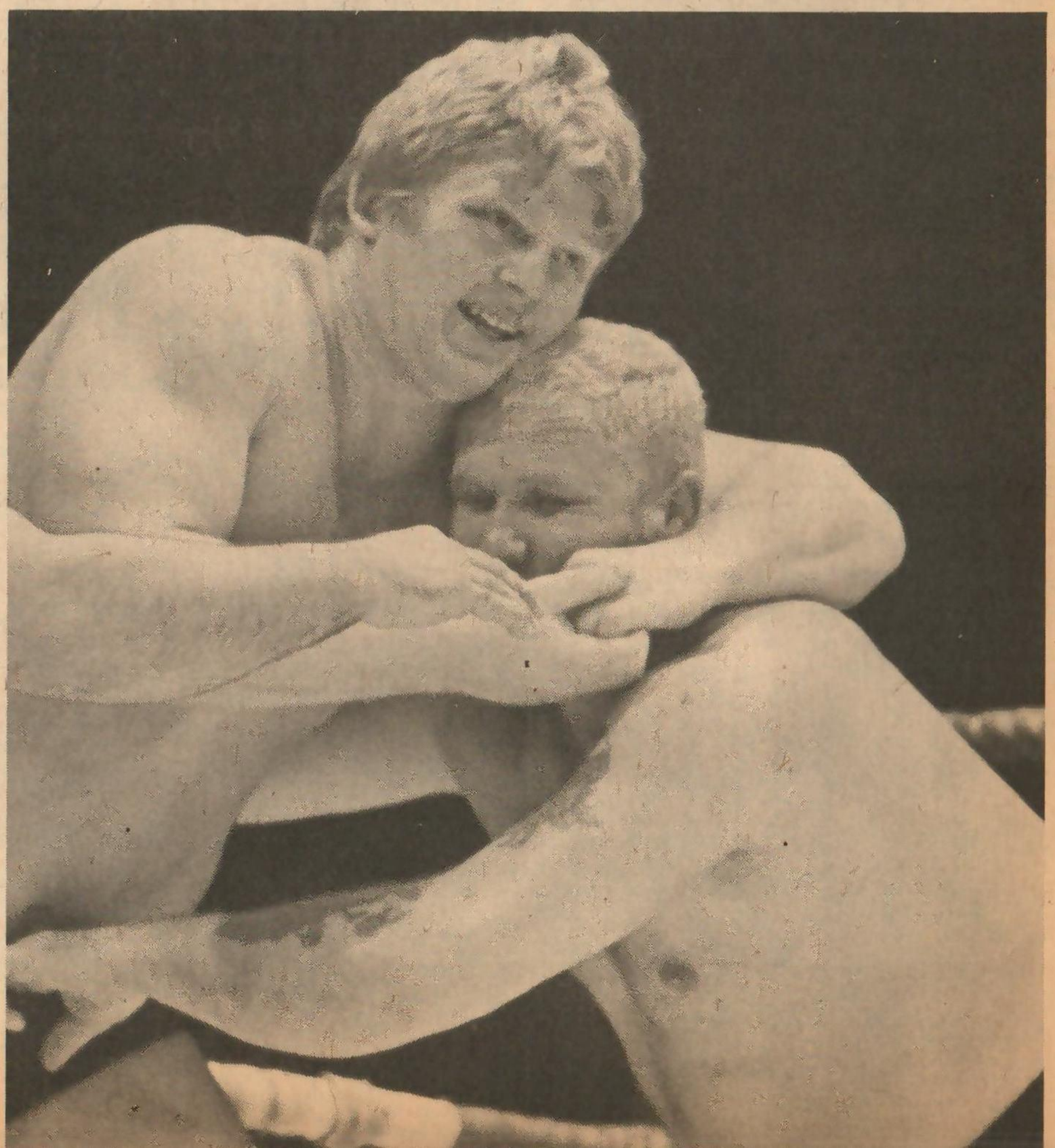
and I just can't believe it.

"I'd like to thank all the fans. I wish I could tell them personally. This is just incredible! To be thought as good as Chavo, much less better; it is just fantastic. The award really means something when it is won over a guy like Guerrero. This is the perfect ending to the greatest year of my life!"

The other two men mentioned were Steve Keirn and Johnny Rivera. Many observers believe Keirn would have scored better if he'd not allowed his career to be sidetracked. A fiercely loyal young man, Keirn took on a lot of

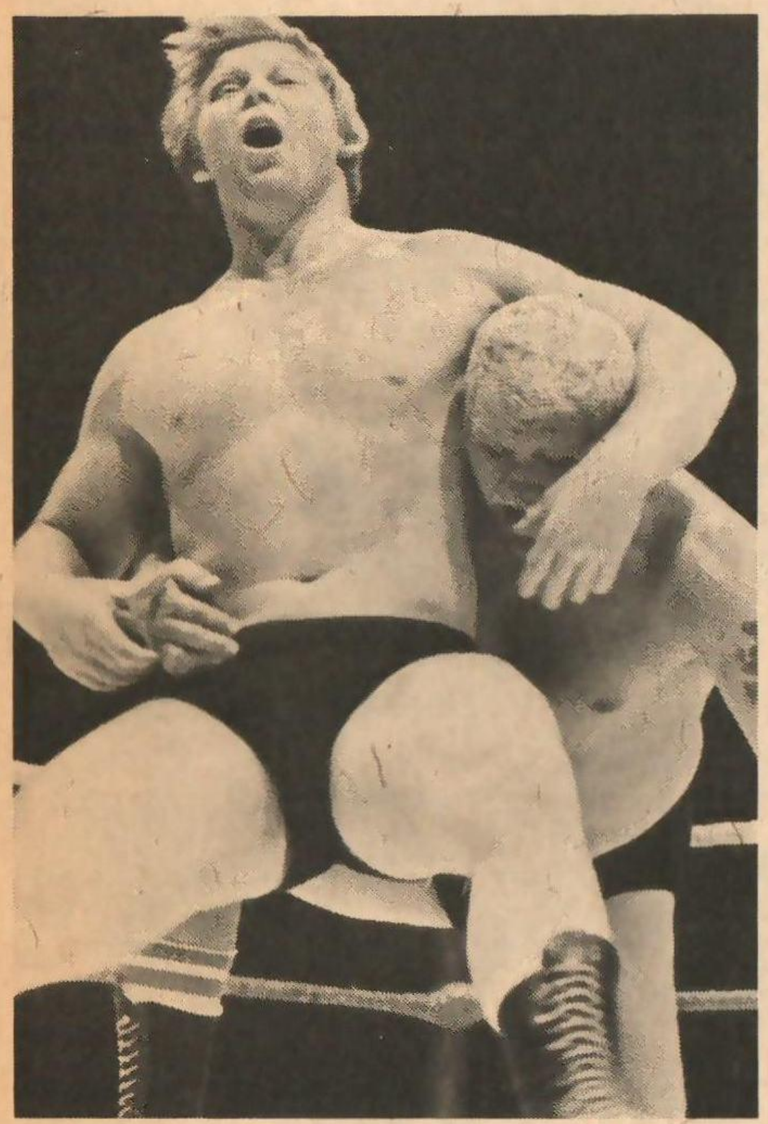






experienced veterans to help out his friends. He should never have been subjected to them in his rookie year. If Steve had thought more of his career and less of his friends, he might have won more of the votes. However, knowing Keirn, one knows he'd rather win his friends' thanks than all the awards in the world.

Johnny Rivera never really had a chance to show his abilities in front of a varied enough cross-section of people. With a little more exposure, he might have garnered many more



votes.

This lack of traveling also hurt the many other rookies named. These men chose to develop strong followings among a small group of fans. Their decision not to display their skills in many arenas can be blamed for their poor showings in the polls, though many letters accompanying the ballots sing their praises to the skies. We are forwarding these compliments to the wrestlers.

However, if all the rookies had traveled the entire world, chances are Bob Backlund would still have squeezed out a victory. He is an extraordinary young man with a fantastic future. □

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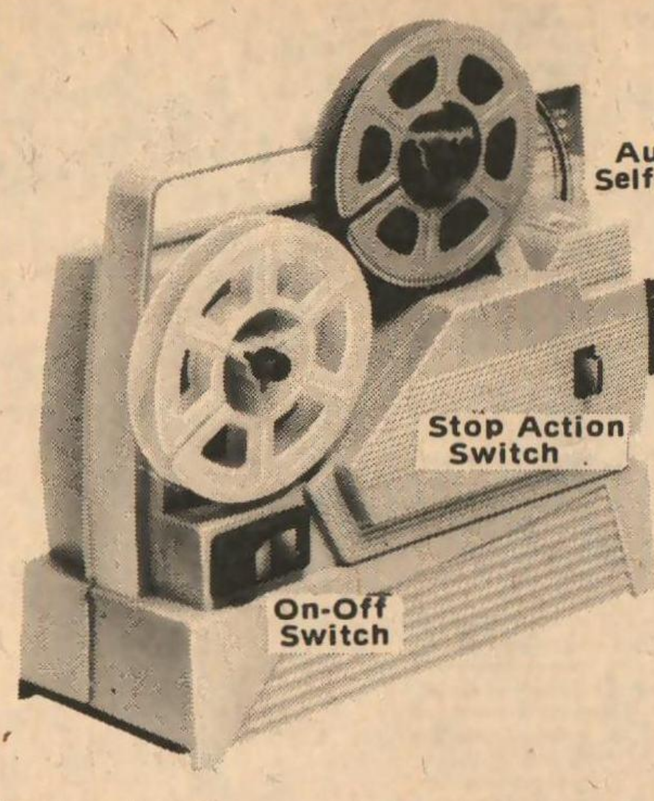

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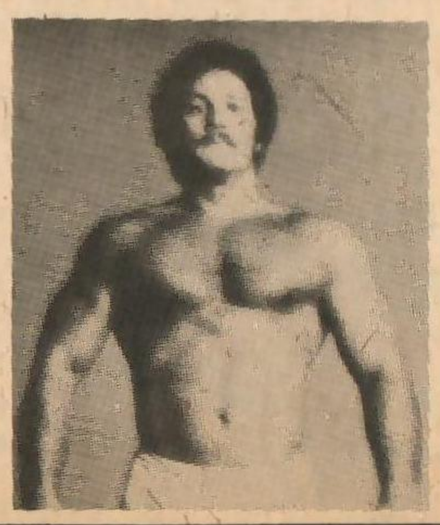

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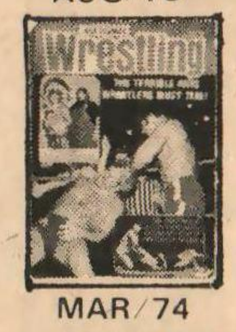
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Susan Green

(Continued from Page 45)

chances are she would have won the award this year. Being so young, she'll have many more chances to gain that honor.

Vicki Williams would probably have scored much higher if fans didn't expect so much of her. Her fans hoped she would take the title belt from Fabulous Moolah this year. They withheld their votes from her due to their disappointment. Vicki had the toughest job of all to be named "Woman Wrestler of the Year," and she paid dearly for her failure. She is doomed by her own greatness.

There were many other women named on the ballots. Different areas voted for different local favorites. With added publicity and more matches, any of those named could be in the top four next year. Women wrestling is in a volatile state of transition and should be fascinating to watch in the coming year.

When Sue Green was told of her honor, she was delighted yet humbled.

"I've been so lucky so often," Sue exclaimed, "that this makes me feel I should give thanks to the world for being so nice to me. Of course, I want to thank all the fans who voted for me. To be chosen when there are so many fine women grapplers is the greatest honor I can imagine. I didn't expect it, but I'm sure glad I got it!"

The lady was also surprised when she heard of the balloting.

"It's going to be completely different next year," Sue believes, "though I hope I'll still be on top. And I hope to get more votes by winning the championship this year. I've come awfully close and the time is near."

It was a remarkable year for women's wrestling, as the voting showed. Next year, when the ballot to top woman wrestler is filled out, even winner Sue Green can't predict who'll be among the top finishers. ☐

Lord Littlebrook

(Continued from Page 47)

excitement goes, Littlebrook is unequaled by anyone in any spectrum of the sport. Although he's not the best sportsman around, he deserves to be best wrestler.

"As a midget, Littlebrook gives me the sense I too can win against the odds. The greatest problems midgets face is surrendering the fight before they begin. Littlebrook teaches us victory is ours if we want it enough. The rules may have to be discarded, but the rules for us were broken at birth!"

Littlebrook was silent after he read this letter. Only he and other midgets could understand the pain of those words. He knew how powerful a force for good he had become. Midgets have few idols to worship. Littlebrook has never been more aware of his responsibilities.

"You get so wrapped up in yourself at times," Littlebrook observed, "that the reason it all matters can be forgotten. A letter like that, and award like 'Midget of the Year,' remind you what it's all about. I want the fans to respect me, respect my victories. I want to be a winner, also. I want to show the whole word what I can do—be the best. And I want to show everyone who has been slapped in the face by fate there's hope. My victories prove that. And they prove it for everyone who feels beaten from the word go."

Lord Littlebrook has been awarded the highest honor a midget athlete can achieve. No matter what his tactics will be like in the future, thousands of people of all sizes will take satisfaction in his victories. They will also learn to hope for victories of their own. No idol can give more. □

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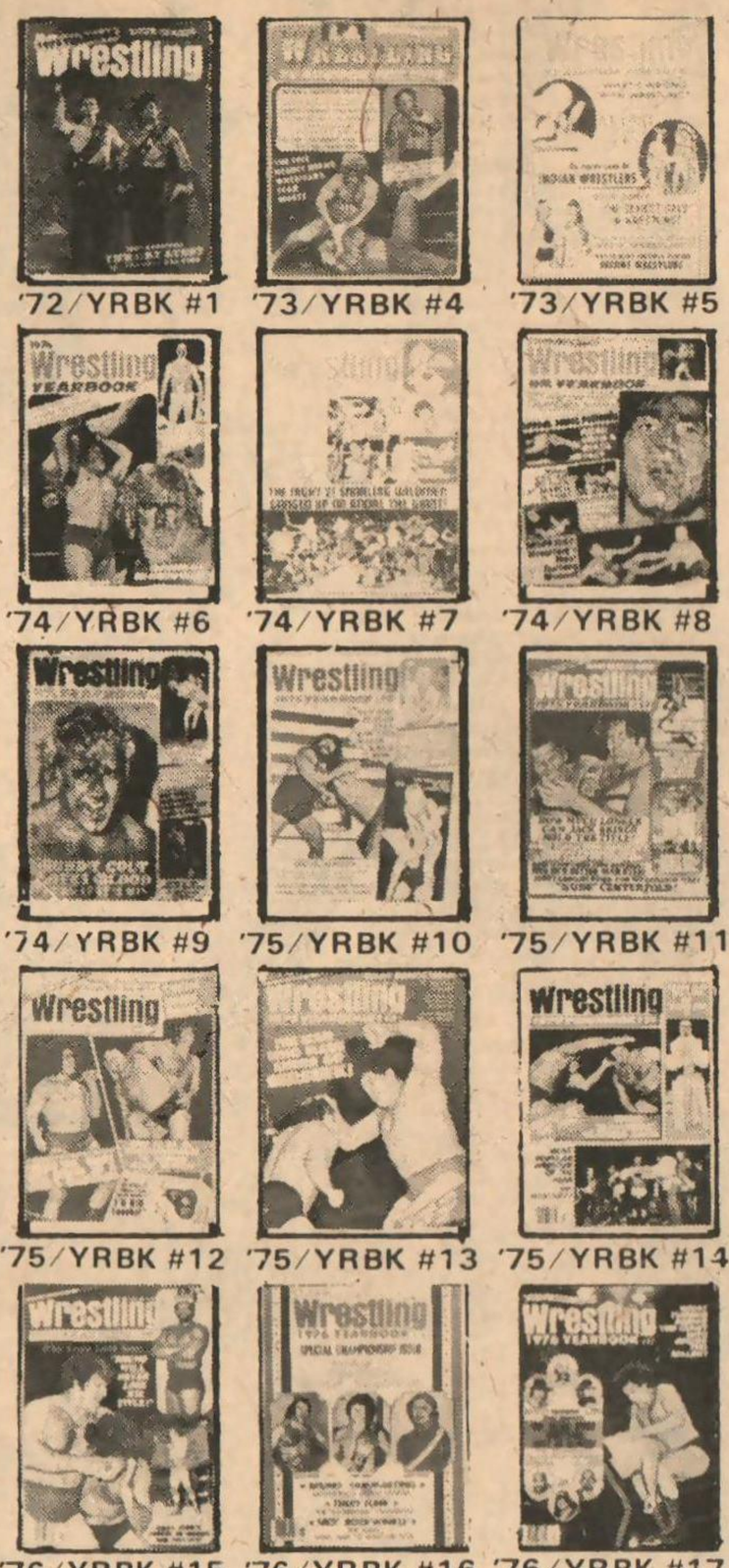

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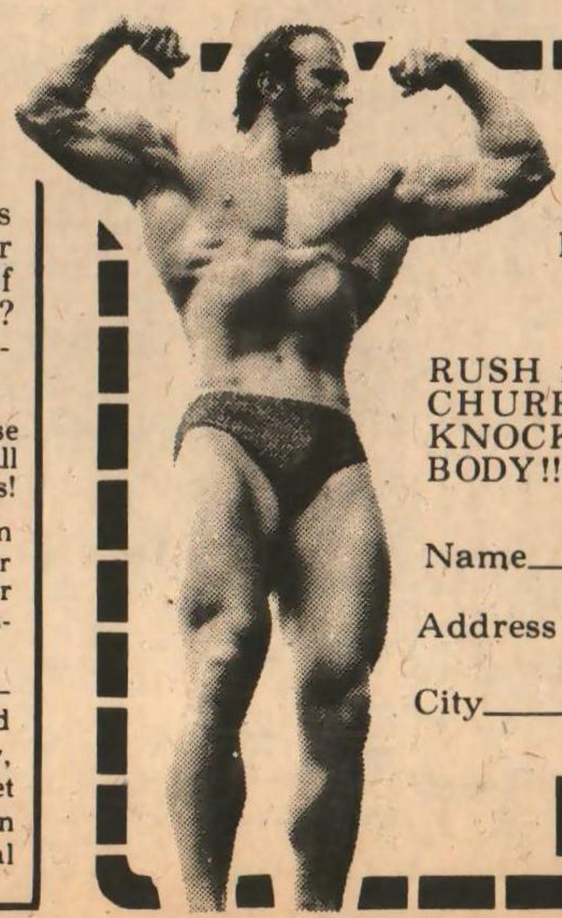

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UNIVERSAL
BODYBUILDING
Box 485 Dept. VI
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

RUSH me those FREE COLORFUL BROCHURES TODAY! I want to be able to KNOCK 'EM DEAD with a FABULOUS BODY!!!

Name_____ Age____

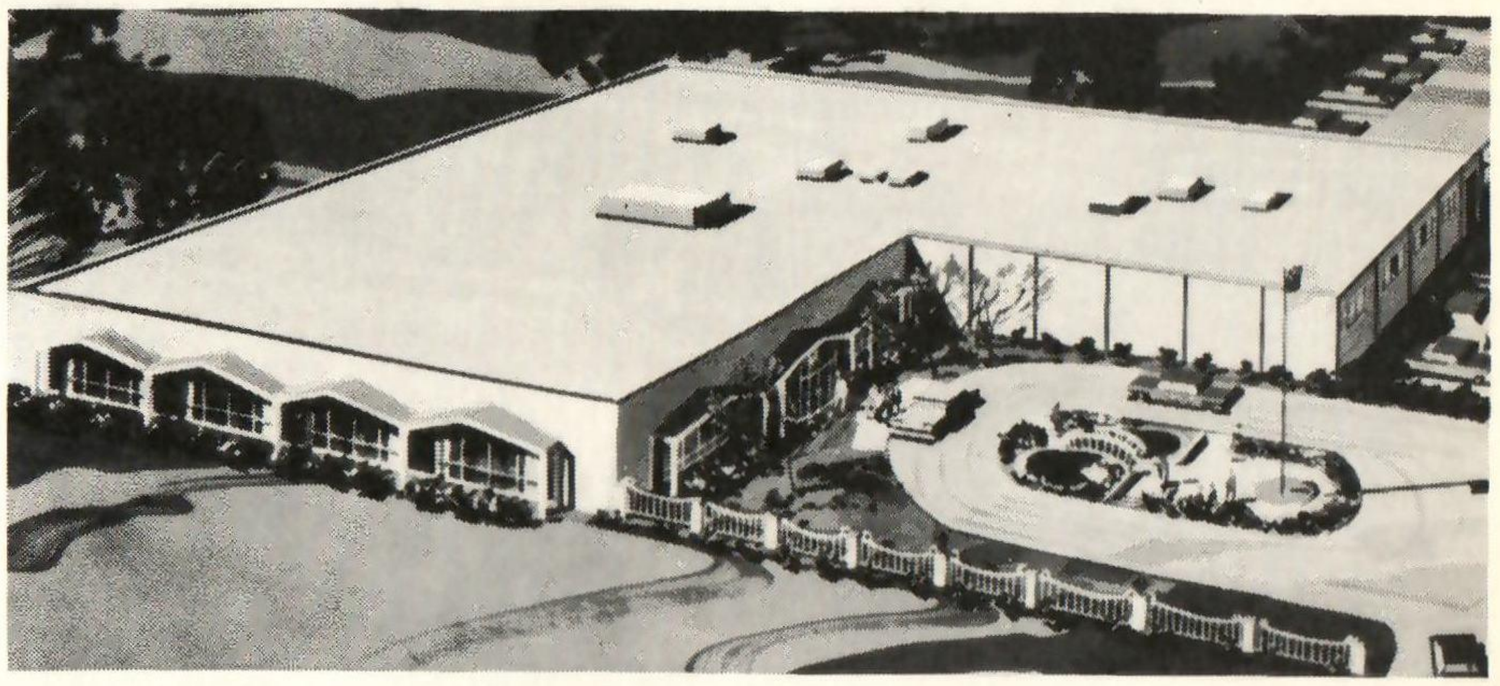
Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

MAIL TODAY!

Be in a Business that Grows Even in Recessions

The Duraclean organization of independent service businesses was founded to provide urgently needed services during the worst years of the Great Depression, and grew rapidly to a permanent, worldwide organization. A time of recession creates great need for the professional quality services of Duraclean dealers.



...and You Can Start Full or Part Time

When people can't afford to pay for new carpeting, furniture, or to reupholster old furniture, what do they do?

They'd rather call a Duraclean dealer to clean it and prolong its life. This is more business for Duraclean Specialists who provide 7 valuable "on-location" services for homes, offices, motels, clubs, hospitals, institutions.

An Indiana dealer, Bob Kaeser, wrote:

"Everyone I talk to has a gloomy outlook on business conditions. I feel I must be doing something wrong when I can say that business is booming and shows a continuing growth pattern over last year. I'm convinced that with a properly managed Duraclean dealership, it is practically recession-proof. My customers tell me they decided to have their carpeting and furniture cleaned again rather than buy new furnishings at today's prices. And they know Duraclean can make them look fresh and new again."

Yes, a Duraclean business of your own can help you beat recessions, inflation, layoffs, unemployment . . . and worrying if YOUR JOB will be next to go.

Shouldn't You Start Your Own Business NOW... while still employed?

Here are facts: With some ambition and less than fifteen hundred dollars, you start your own Duraclean business, spare time, without risking your job or paycheck!

It's a nationally advertised, worldwide business. It does not require skill, more than an average education, or traits except the willingness to work to start grossing $12, $19, or $26 profit per hour. By return mail, we will explain how.

You build by adding servicemen and/or servicewomen . . . and we pay for their equipment so you can expand rapidly.

This is a service to homeowners as well as offices and stores and institutions—a sensational, improved method of cleaning carpets and upholstered furniture right on the customer's premises — the EXCLUSIVE DURACLEAN SYSTEM!

This exclusive ABSORPTION METHOD lifts out dirt and greasy soil with a gentle, almost dry foam. Do-it-yourself "so-called" cleaning methods and scrubbing drive soil deeper. You TAKE IT OUT. Carpets and furniture can be used again in a few hours! This is vital to stores, offices, motels.

You operate under a nationally known name—use an exclusive process recommended by the nation's leading carpet mills and in the editorial pages by House & Garden, McCalls, Parents, and House Beautiful. We help you, step by step.

Your training shows you how to perform your 7 superior "on location" services . . . how to get customers, how to control your expenses, how to make the maximum profit. You are an expert in the care of furnishings. It is an interesting, exciting career.

Carry all equipment in your car trunk until your profits buy your first truck. Phone calls can be received at home.

We back you with national advertising, prepare your local ads and mailings. Merchants, upholsterers, decorators, insurance adjusters refer jobs to our dealers. Your services are in year 'round demand.

As a Duraclean Dealer you are the sole owner of an independent business and are your own boss. You keep all the net profits.

This business can pay you far more than most men earn—with only the talent and ambition you now possess, and you can operate in any one of three ways.

Many let servicemen do the work while they make a substantial profit on each.

Some men operate permanently in spare time for the extra money they need. Some start in spare time and quit their jobs only after they see they can make a lot more money as a full time Duraclean Specialist.

A one-man business with part-time servicemen can exceed $30,000 annually. A very high percent is clear profit to you.

The Duraclean Business can be as small as you want or it can be expanded to the level your ambition dictates. There is no limit on income for an ambitious man.

We are about to appoint a limited number of men who are truly ambitious, and want to do something about their futures. We want men who'll follow our proven plans for success and who want—with our help—their own successful businesses.

If this opportunity interests you, send your name on the coupon for a FREE 24-page booklet which gives complete details on the Duraclean business. No salesman will call on you. After you've read the facts, you can decide if you wish to apply for a Duraclean dealership.

Duraclean® International

6-79D Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill. 60015

WITHOUT OBLIGATION send the free booklet which shows me how I can start a Duraclean Business in my spare time without risking my job. No salesman is to call.

Name_____

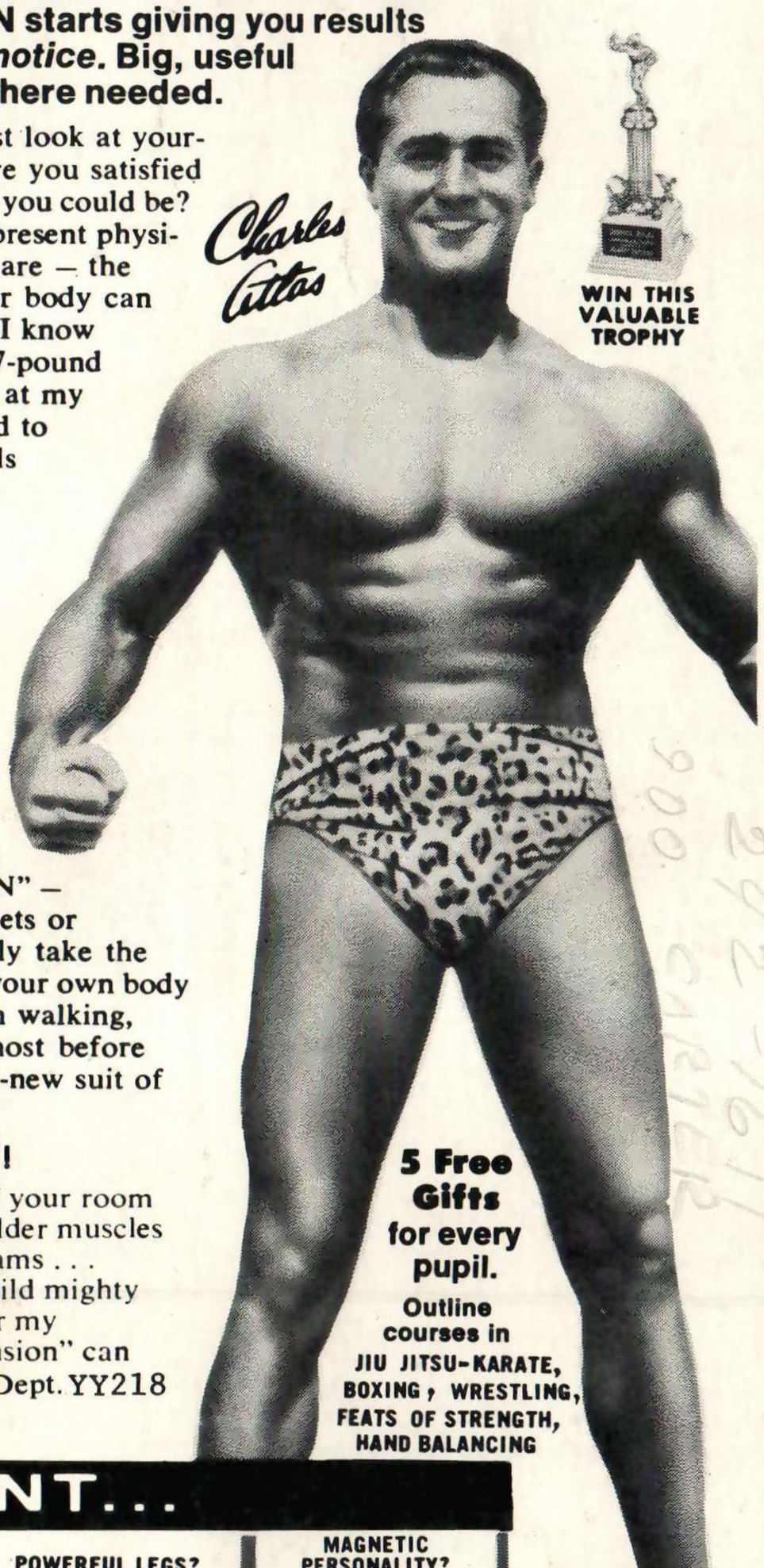
Address_____

City_____

State & Zip_____

An ATLAS BODY — In 7 DAYS

my method of DYNAMIC-TENSION starts giving you results you can *feel* and your friends will *notice*. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed. Lose "pot belly." Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body – or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition – or how old or young you are – the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man ! Believe me, I know – because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.



HOW I CHANGED FROM A "MOUSE" TO A MAN!

One day, I discovered a secret that changed me from a timid, frightened scarecrow into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" – a "magic formula" that can help turn *you*, too, into a marvellous physical specimen . . . a REAL man from head to toe . . . a man who STANDS OUT in any crowd! What's my secret? "DYNAMIC-TENSION" – the natural method! No theory. No gadgets or contraptions. You just do as I did. Simply take the "sleeping" muscles already present inside your own body – build them up – use them every day in walking, bending over, reaching, even sitting! Almost before you know it, you're covered with a brand-new suit of beautiful, rock-hard SOLID MUSCLE!

MY SECRET BUILDS MUSCLES FAST!

Just 15 minutes each day in the privacy of your room is all it takes to make your chest and shoulder muscles swell so big they almost split your coat seams . . . turn your fists into sledge-hammers . . . build mighty legs that never tire! Mail coupon today for my famous book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can give *you* a Body by Atlas. Charles Atlas, Dept. YY218 49 W. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010

5 Free Gifts for every pupil.

Outline courses in JIU JITSU-KARATE, BOXING, WRESTLING, FEATS OF STRENGTH, HAND BALANCING

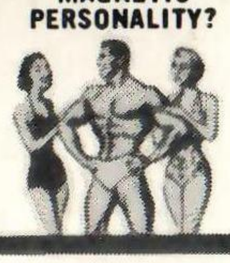
DO YOU WANT...

A MUSCULAR CHEST?

BIG ARM MUSCLES?

POWERFUL LEGS?

MAGNETIC PERSONALITY?



BROAD SHOULDERS?

MORE WEIGHT?

...THEN MAIL THIS *NOW!*

HERE'S THE KIND OF BODY I WANT

- ☐ MORE MUSCLE —BIGGER CHEST
- ☐ BIG ARM MUSCLES
- ☐ TIRELESS LEGS
- ☐ MAGNETIC PERSONALITY
- ☐ BROAD BACK & SHOULDERS
- ☐ MORE WEIGHT

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